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East Asia

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EC Parliament Urges DPRK To Revoke NPT Pull-out

SK2304005993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Brussels, April 22 [date as received] (YONHAP)—The European Parliament has urged North Korea to retract its decision to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In a resolution adopted on a motion submitted by five groups, the Parliament said Thursday that Pyongyang's NPT pullout posed a threat to northeast Asian peace and security and recommended that North Korea immediately allow IAEA specialists to inspect sites in Yongbyon, where it is suspected of developing nuclear weapons.

It called on all NPT nations to suspend their scientific and technological relations with North Korea, noting that North Korea's nuclear issue strained their diplomatic and economic relations with Pyongyang. On the same day, a meeting of the South Korea-European Community Parliamentary Union highly commended President Kim Yong-sam for his reforms.

The amnesty he granted to political prisoners last month had solved South Korea's human rights issue, and the EC and South Korea should now promote political cooperation in addition to the on-going economic cooperation. Korean Ambassador to the European Community Chang Man-sun briefed the meeting on recent developments in South Korea and northeast Asia.

Russian Official Defends Regional Weapons Sales

BK2304022993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Russia sells arms to countries in this region for defensive purposes and in line with United Nations rules, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said here yesterday.

"I don't think we should be worried when we speak about defensive arms, when we speak about reasonable security requirements of the countries in this region," he said.

Mr Lavrov's remarks follow a senior UN official's criticisms of "developed countries" for "cashing in" on the arms race in the Asia-Pacific region.

Without naming the countries, Rafeeuddin Ahmed, the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] executive secretary, said they had "cast aside their avowed international responsibility for promoting and safeguarding of peace" by going for the "lucrative profits" to be gained in the trade.

Badly in need of foreign exchange, Russia is reported to have sold arms to China, Malaysia, South Korea and Indonesia at bargain prices and under attractive terms of payment.

Mr Lavrov said arms should not be sold in areas of existing or potential conflict and pointed out that Russia abides by the UN embargo on the matter.

Arms traders should keep in mind the needs of overall stability, he said.

"And from this point of view, it should be possible to agree on rules of cooperation rather than confrontation," he said.

For largely political reasons, the regional arms market was not open to the former Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Russia's advances in the market since then apparently are edging out the United States, traditionally the main arms supplier of non-communist member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr Lavrov said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev would meet ASEAN foreign ministers after their annual conference in Singapore in June.

The invitation from ASEAN was received last month, Mr Lavrov said.

"The form of our participation will be equivalent to that of other partners in ASEAN dialogue."

Clarification of his statement was not immediately available. Russia, along with China, was a guest at the last annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Manila last July.

Russia is not among ASEAN's seven dialogue partners, which are Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the European Community, the US, Japan and South Korea.

But Mr Lavrov confirmed that Russia was "ready for the full-scale and constructive participation in the new modalities of interaction between ASEAN and its partners from Asia and the Pacific".

In his prepared statement to the 49th session of ESCAP, he noted a "new impetus" in relations between the Russian Federation and regional organisations.

"We are sure that the integration of the Russian Federation into the region constitutes a guarantee of sustainable geopolitical development in the region and meets the interests of its parts," he said.

Asian Ministers Discuss Cambodian Elections

BK2304023593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 6

[Text] Japan would like the four main Cambodian factions and concerned countries to meet before general elections take place in Cambodia next month, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said yesterday.

Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa made the point during a meeting with Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday, the spokesman added.

Mr Kakizawa was clarifying Japan's proposal for an international conference, the spokesman noted. He said Japan wanted to bring together the four parties in the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia and concerned countries before the elections take place, the spokesman added.

The proposal emerged after a marked deterioration of the situation in Cambodia, with an upsurge of violence over the past month and the Khmer Rouge refusing to rule out use of force to disrupt elections in the country.

Mr Kakizawa expressed hope that the elections in Cambodia, set to start on May 23, would take place as scheduled, the spokesman noted.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, who also met Squadron Leader Prasong yesterday, likewise expressed hope that the elections would go ahead as planned, the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan called on all parties to "strictly implement" the October 1991 Paris peace accords on Cambodia.

In a formal statement to the 49th session of ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific], he said Vietnam "more than anyone else" wishes to see peace and stability in Cambodia.

He denounced the "terrorisation, massacre and driving-away" of ethnic Vietnamese from Cambodia as "acts of sabotage" of the Paris agreement.

"We call for the world and regional community to condemn and take immediate actian to put an end to these criminal acts so that the normal life of the Vietnamese ethnics is ensured."

Dozens of ethnic Vietnamese were killed in Cambodia in March in attacks widely attributed to the Khmer Rouge.

NE Asian Group To Study Tumen Region Project

SK2304042993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0318 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—The Association for Northeast Asia Economic Cooperation (NEA-EC), a private economic organization that groups South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan, Russia and Mongolia, is to send a team of representatives from member countries to the Tumen River basin in April next year to study the feasibility of jointly developing the area, Hyundai Group Chairman Chong Se-yong said Thursday. Chong, returning from the second meeting of the NEA-EC Board of Directors on April 19-20 in Tianjin, China, said it was agreed in principle to hold the next meeting and a seminar in Pyongyang along with the on-spot survey.

Chong, head delegate from South Korea, said the North Korean delegates hinted that Pyongyang may not allow the meeting and the alternative venue was somewhere like Khabarovsk. The South Koreans proposed building a thermoelectric power station in the Demilitarized Zone and car assembly plants in China for South Korean automakers.

The North Koreans proposed developing the area near the Tumen River, and this was adopted unanimously. It was also agreed to dicuss the details at the next meeting. The Japanese suggested building an inter-Korea exchange center in the Demilitarized Zone.

Chong said he exchanged views on the development of Mt. Kumgang and building a shipyard in Wonsan on a joint-venture basis with the North Koreans and got the impression that North Korea wanted joint-venture projects. He delivered the desire of South Korean automakers to build factories in China to Chinese Vice Premier Zou Jiahua, who reportedly said, "we are to study on it."

Singapore, Japan Companies To Construct SRV Port

BK0704131693 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 7 Apr 93 p 39

[Text] A local property firm has put together a $1-billion [Singapore dollars] deal which will see Japanese and Singapore-based companies jointly build and operate the coastal port of Vung Tau in Vietnam. The Port of Singapore (PSA) could possibly also be involved in the operation of the port, believed to be the biggest single foreign investment project in that country.

Mr Ong Beng Kheong, executive director of Colliers Jardine, said that the PSA would be "the ideal partner" but he stressed that PSA had not been approached yet. A PSA spokesman said yesterday it "would be interested" if approached and would be open to discussions. "We will evaluate the opportunities."

The project involves a "build, operate and transfer" arrangement for Vung Tau, 120 km southwest of Ho Chi Minh City. It is projected to overtake Saigon River Port by 1998 as Vietnam's busiest port. The developers are led by Singapore-based Tredia Investment and include Japanese trading companies Mitsui and Mitsubishi.

Vietnamese partners in the project are the People's Committee of Ba Ria-Vung Tau province and the Vietnam Maritime Bureau. Tredia Investment is headed by Mr Hideo Makise, a Japanese based here. He was not in town yesterday.

Speaking to THE STRAITS TIMES by telephone from Vietnam, Mr Ong said in-principle approval for the project was given in February. He said Japanese-based Pacific Consultants International estimated the value of the project at U.S.$905 million (S$1.47 billion). The first phase starting in 1994, will last three years and invloves work on 550 hectares [ha] of land and reclamation work. The second phase will cover 315 ha and will be completed in 2010, he added.

A terminal for bulk, conventional and containerised cargo will be constructed and navigational aids, tug boats and vessels purchased under the package deal. Another 190 ha will be set aside for industrial land.

Mr Ong said the redevelopment of the coastal port to Vung Tau into a transhipment hub to handle six million tonnes of cargo a year was crucial for Vietnam's development. This was because Saigon River Port cannot expand much more, being sited in the congested city centre, he said.

Japan

Reportage on Emperor's Okinawa Visit

Spokesman: Visit To Be 'Emotional'

OW2204145693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said Thursday [22 April] he expects the first post-World War II visit by a Japanese emperor to Okinawa, the only part of Japan to experience ground battles during the war, will be an emotional experience for residents of the southernmost prefecture. Kono said that during Emperor Akihito's and Empress Michiko's visit to the prefecture from Friday through Monday to attend a tree-planting ceremony, he expects the people of Okinawa "will experience deep emotion."

Okinawans were ordered to fight in the name of the former Emperor Hirohito, and some 200,0000 died in the bloody conflict with the United States. Many were also forced to commit suicide.

Kono, who is also to attend the annual tree-planting festival, told reporters, "I truly hope that the wounds that the people of Okinawa Prefecture have borne for a long time will be healed." Many Okinawans have ambivalent feelings toward Japanese from the main islands, in part because there is a lingering feeling that they were sacrificed first on the frontline and later abandoned by Tokyo.

The U.S. occupied Okinawa for 27 years after World War II, and despite years of special economic programs, today the southern prefecture remains the poorest in the nation. The previous emperor, known posthumously as Emperor Showa, visited Okinawa when he was crown prince but never as emperor. Emperor Akihito has previously visited Okinawa five times in his capacity as crown prince. In addition to attending the tree-planting ceremony, the imperial couple are also scheduled to pay respects to war dead near the site of the last battle and visit war memorials.

Emperor Departs for Visit

OW2304013093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0121 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Friday morning left from Haneda Airport for a four-day visit to Okinawa to attend a national tree-planting ceremony. It will be the first post-World War II visit by a Japanese emperor to Okinawa although the current imperial couple visited there five times as crown prince and princess, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

On Friday afternoon the emperor and empress are scheduled to make a visit to a national graveyard for the war dead in Mabuni, southern Okinawa Prefecture, where the remains of more than 180,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians are interred, the officials said. Some 200,000 Okinawans are believed to have died during the fierce battles with United States' forces.

The emperor will then meet with some 150 representatives of the war-bereaved at a nearby peace monument. The royal couple are also scheduled to visit a monument to the "Himeyuri Butai (Corps)" of more than 200 field nurses, comprising high school and normal school students, who committed mass suicide in April 1945 in the wake of the Japanese defeat on Okinawa.

The United States returned Okinawa to Japan in 1972 after a 27-year occupation. On Sunday the emperor and empress will attend the 44th national tree-planting ceremony in Itoman, with some 10,000 people participating. The imperial couple are scheduled to return to Tokyo on Monday.

Arrives in Okinawa

OW2304045493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Naha, April 23 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived in Naha on Friday [23 April] afternoon for a four-day visit to Okinawa to attend a national tree-planting ceremony. It is the first-ever visit to Okinawa by a Japanese emperor, although the current imperial couple made five visits as crown prince and princess, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

On Friday afternoon, the emperor and empress are scheduled to make a visit to a national graveyard for the war dead in Mabuni, southern Okinawa Prefecture, where the remains of more than 180,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians are interred, the officials said. Some 200,000 Okinawans are believed to have died during the fierce battles with U.S. forces.

The emperor will then meet with some 150 representatives of the war-bereaved at a nearby peace monument. The royal couple are also scheduled to visit a monument to the "Himeyuri Butai (Corps)" of more than 200 field nurses, comprising high school and normal school students, who committed mass suicide in April 1945 in the wake of the Japanese defeat on Okinawa.

The United States returned Okinawa to Japan in 1972 after a 27-year occupation. On Sunday, the emperor and empress will attend the 44th national tree-planting ceremony in Itoman, with some 10,000 people participating. The imperial couple are scheduled to return to Tokyo on Monday.

Mourns Okinawans Killed in WWII

OW2304113793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Naha, April 23 KYODO—Emperor Akihito mourned in Itoman, Okinawa Prefecture, on Friday [23 April] for the people killed on the southern Japanese island during World War II and expressed his wish for peace. "In the last war, quite a few lives were lost. I feel something indescribable toward the 200,000 people who were involved and killed in ground battles waged in Okinawa Prefecture," the emperor said in an address before some 150 representatives of the Okinawa war-bereaved.

"I now would like to offer my deep condolences on their deaths," he said at a national graveyard, where the remains of over 180,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians are interred. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited the graveyard shortly past 2 p.m. after arriving in Naha for a four-day trip to Okinawa to attend a national tree-planting ceremony. It is the first visit to Okinawa ever by a reigning Japanese monarch.

In his address, the emperor said, "I wish to understand the history of our county and the rest of the world all the time and continue to pray for peace, along with the people of Japan, including people in Okinawa Prefecture, without making nothing of the many war dead." Some 200,000 Okinawans are believed to have died during fighting between Japan and the United States in the final stages of World War II in 1945. The wartime Japanese Government ordered the islanders to fight in the name of the late Emperor Hirohito, father of the present emperor.

Later Friday, the emperor and the empress visited a cenotaph to the Himeyuri Butai, a corps of more than 200 field nurses made up of high school and normal school students, who committed mass suicide in April 1945 in the wake of the Japanese defeat on Okinawa. The U.S. handed Okinawa back to Japan in 1972 after a 27-year occupation, but about one-fifth of its land surface is still taken up by U.S. Military bases.

Okinawa, located roughly equidistant from South Korea, the Philippines and China, is home to key U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps units. The imperial couple made five visits to Okinawa as crown prince and princess. Some 4,700 police clamped tight security on the island to prevent possible attacks against the monarch.

In 1975 the couple narrowly escaped a petrol bomb attack at the Himeyuri Memorial. In 1987, when then Crown Prince Akihito went as his father's envoy to open an annual national athletic meet there, an activist burned the Rising Sun flag at the ceremony. On Saturday, the emperor is scheduled to visit an old people's home in Nago to talk to survivors of the World War II battle. He will officiate at the 44th national tree-planting ceremony in Itoman on Sunday, to be attended by some 10,000 people. The emperor and the empress are due to return to Tokyo on Monday.

Miyazawa To Brief Diet on Meeting With Clinton

OW2304032293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will brief the Diet on his meeting last week with U.S. President Bill Clinton in a bid to calm currency markets, government and ruling party sources said Friday [23 April]. The yen's recent rise accelerated after Clinton told a news conference after the meeting that he supports a high yen as a means of cutting the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, which hit 49 billion dollars last year.

On Thursday in Tokyo the dollar closed at a record low of 110.20 yen. It hit a record intraday low of 109.90 yen Wednesday. The sources said Miyazawa will appear before a plenary session of the lower and upper houses next Wednesday to answer questions about the Washington meeting, the first since Clinton took office in January.

Though some U.S. officials have expressed a negative view about a high yen, their comments have so far failed to affect the market, the sources said, stressing the need for a clear statement by Miyazawa. Miyazawa told the Diet on Wednesday that Clinton did not express a preference for a stronger yen against the dollar in their April 16 meeting.

Miyazawa To Meet Australia, NZ Premiers

OW2304020593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0149 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will hold a summit meeting with Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating on April 30, and hold talks with New Zealand Prime Minister James Bolger on May 1, the government announced Friday. Miyazawa is to depart Japan April 29 for Canberra, and return home on May 2, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said. Miyazawa will be the first Japanese premier to tour Australia since 1988, and New Zealand since 1985.

The talks are expected to cover the situation in Cambodia, and other international and bilateral issues. They will also provide Miyazawa with an opportunity to listen to the views of the two Asia-Pacific nations prior to Japan's hosting of the July 7-9 Tokyo summit of seven major industrialized countries. The trip is to be formally approved by the cabinet on April 27.

Economic Planning Agency Head To Visit U.S.

OW2304035993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0322 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, will visit Washington from next Friday [30 April] to discuss Japan-U.S. economic matters, including the recent rise of the yen on foreign exchanges, with U.S. officials, the agency said Friday [23 April]. Among the U.S. officials Funada is expected to meet are Laura Tyson, chief economic adviser to President Bill Clinton, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Funada's visit is scheduled through May 5, the agency said.

Spokesman: No Sign DPRK Preparing To Invade ROK

OW2304032793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan does not see any evidence that North Korea, faced with a severe economic crisis and diplomatic isolation, is taking steps to launch a military attack against South Korea, top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Friday. Kono made the remark in response to recent testimony by U.S. commander of forces in South Korea Gen. Robert RisCassi that there is a real chance that North Korean leaders will launch an invasion of its southern neighbor in reaction to the domestic crisis.

"North Korea is in confusion due to a shortage of energy and other items, severe economic conditions, and diplomatic isolation," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono told a news conference. "But on the recent developments, we have not confirmed any concrete signals that would indicate a military attack against South Korea," Kono said. He declined to elaborate whether he thought domestic instability increases the likelihood that Pyongyang would turn to military action.

Japan is seeking to maintain a soft approach in encouraging Pyongyang to abandon its stated intention to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and asking it to allow international inspection of the nuclear sites suspected of being part of a nuclear weapons program. Kono said he had no confirmation of a South Korean television report that said North Korea had decided to remain a party to the nuclear control accord.

RisCassi told the Senate Armed Services Committee Wednesday of various scenarios for an invasion, and said that North Korea is unlikely to be influenced by any foreign pressure including those of China. It is unusual for a senior military official to publicly refer to the possibility of such an invasion.

Kyrgyz President Akayev Continues Visit to Japan

Calls for Russian Troop Withdrawal

OW2304095893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev on Friday [23 April] expressed hopes that Russia will pull its troops out of Kyrgyzstan now that his republic has concluded a bilateral security pact with Moscow. Akayev, who is on a five-day visit to Japan, told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo that he hopes the pullout will take place within two or three years. He told reporters Kyrgyzstan has reversed its 1991 decision to create its own military of 5,000 to 7,000 troops.

Akayev, the first president elected by a direct national vote in the republic, said through an interpreter that Kyrgyzstan will be the only country among the 10 republics of the Commonwealth of Independents States (CIS) without its own military. A former optical physicist, Akayev said his republic will seek to defend its security on the basis of a relationship of trust called for by its bilateral security treaty with the Russian federation.

"It was necessary to conclude a security treaty with Russia to defend our republic's security in its external and internal relations," Akayev said. "Our country decided to devote all of its energy to economic and intellectual development of the nation." He said his country is still reeling from the adverse fallout of the centrally-planned economy imposed under the rule of the former Soviet Union.

Akayev warned that the CIS faces a crisis in light of its member republics' economic malaise and security arrangements. He said, however, Kyrgyzstan cannot dismiss the importance of the presence of the CIS to ensure its members' security and economic reforms. "First, we need the CIS for the sake of collective security, and second we need it to expedite economic cooperation among its members and to conquer our economic crisis," he said.

"Kyrgyz people have lived under the rule of a Czarist Russia and then of the Soviet Union over the past two hundred years. Kyrgyz citizens feel pain from the (recent) breakup... with the people of other regions (of the vast country) developed over time." [sentence as received]

Akayev is renowned for repeatedly calling on Russia to resolve the territorial fray with Japan over four islands off Japan's northern shores which were seized by the Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Akayev used to demand a solution of the territorial row repeatedly from the rostrum of the Congress of People's Deputies before he was swept to power following the 1991 abortive coup that overthrew former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for three days.

However, he told reporters, as an elected leader of a commonwealth country, he would risk drawing criticism from Russia for meddling into its internal policies if he were to speak his mind on the situation now. He said he hopes Japan and Russia will be able to resolve the row without hurting each other's national prestige.

Wishes Yeltsin Referendum Victory

OW2204142893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1212 GMT 22 Apr 93

["Exclusive" interview with Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev by unidentified NHK announcer on 22 April; place not given; from the "News 9" program—recorded]

[Text] Visiting Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev gave an exclusive interview with NHK earlier today. In the interview, President Akayev said that civil war may take place in former Soviet republics if Russian President Boris Yeltsin loses the referendum on 25 April.

[Begin recording] [Akayev, in Russian with Japanese subtitles; translated from Russian] I sincerely wish President Yeltsin victory in the 25 April referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin's defeat in the referendum would bring about a return of the former commmunist empire. Their supporters are present in our republic and in all CIS countries. This would be the beginning of civil war and the beginning of a major cataclysm on the huge Eurasian continent.

[Announcer, in Japanese] The Japanese Government has offered $60-million in yen-dominated loans to Kyrgyzstan. Could you tell me what your plans are to use the loans?

[Akayev] The loans from Japan will be diverted to support Kyrgyzstan's own currency, and to cover the trade deficit balance with CIS countries and other countries of the world. I guarantee that we will make the most of the loans to reconstruct the Kyrgyz economy. They will not be wasted. [end recording]

Miyazawa Supports ADB Entry

OW2204115193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1111 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev Thursday Japan will support the Central Asian republic's bid to join the Asian Development Bank (ADB), a Foreign Ministry official said. Miyazawa also formally announced Japan will extend a yen loan worth 60 million dollars to Kyrgyzstan, and said the government will dispatch an official mission to the former Soviet republic this summer to survey possible infrastructure projects, the official said.

The loan represents Japan's first official development assistance to a former Soviet republic. The two leaders spent most of the 70-minute meeting discussing economic issues, the official said. Russia, which is due to hold a referendum on the leadership of President Boris Yeltsin over the weekend, did not come up during the first-ever talks between the two leaders, the official said.

Akayev told Miyazawa that Kyrgyzstan faces two major problems, developing infrastructure and establishing a banking system. He welcomed Japanese companies to join up with Kyrgyzstan interests in developing natural resources such as rare metals, the official said. Akayev also invited Miyazawa to visit Kyrgyzstan.

Akayev arrived in Tokyo Tuesday for a five-day visit to Japan. Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous nation of 4.7 million people on the border of China, has won praise from industrialized nations as being the most advanced among of the Central Asian republics in its reforms and political stability.

Reaction to Rise in Value of Yen Continues

Posts Minister Supports Yen Rise

OW2304025293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0241 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan's Posts Minister Junichiro Koizumi stood alone Friday in welcoming the recent steep rise in value of the yen against the U.S. dollar, while other cabinet members complained that it is undermining the economy. "I don't think (the yen's rise) is so overdone. A high yen isn't necessarily a bad thing," said Koizumi, minister of posts and telecommunications, at a news conference after the day's cabinet meeting.

Citing the effect of the higher yen in stabilizing prices, Koizumi said, "the strong yen does more good than harm." His remarks are in sharp contrast with views expressed by almost all other cabinet members, including Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, opposing the yen's recent surge, which accelerated this week after U.S. President Bill Clinton made comments supporting a higher yen as a way of trimming U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

Trade Minister Yoshiro Mori told a separate news conference that he feels "strong anger rather than concern" at the yen's rise, saying it was acting as a dampener on the government's new pump-priming measures. He said Miyazawa told cabinet members that the turbulent currency market will be a "long-haul" issue.

Miyazawa Concerned Over Yen Rise

OW2204142493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—The yen's continued upsurge Thursday [22 April] is causing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and monetary officials more concern about news coming in from Washington. The yen seemed poised to turn weaker against the dollar earlier Thursday before remarks by a U.S. Treasury Department source confirming that the United States favors a stronger yen sent the Japanese currency skyward again.

Responding to reporters at around 1 P.M. when it seemed the yen would turn downward, Miyazawa said with relief, "It can't last forever." But at around 3 P.M. when the yen accelerated again, he told reporters, "Well, it moves up and down." On news that the U.S. Treasury Department will not intervene to stem the yen's rise, Miyazawa said, "I haven't heard that." On the London Foreign Exchange Market after the Tokyo market close, the yen hit a record postwar high of 109.50 yen against the dollar in early morning deals.

Miyazawa has repeatedly indicated that the currency issue was not discussed at his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton last Friday. On Clinton's remarks at a joint press conference, which were interpreted as indicating that he wants the yen's rise as a means to curb Japan's growing trade surplus, Miyazawa said they were "a generalization toward a correction of the trade imbalance." But against his expectations, nearly all the news from Washington endorses the U.S. Administration's acceptance of the yen's advance.

Meanwhile, monetary authorities in both the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) expressed distrust of their U.S. counterparts, and a senior government official hinted at countermeasures such as an official announcement by Miyazawa of a policy to quell the yen bullish market mood. "Some kind of measures are necessary," a senior official told reporters late Thursday evening.

A monetary official said, "It's unbelievable that the president of a superpower nation would make comments deliberately to weaken its own currency." "The United States appears to be thinking that there's no problem in tolerating the yen's rise because the dollar is falling only against the yen," he said. "But you never know what will trigger a dollar's free fall."

A government source also criticized the Japanese premier, saying, "Miyazawa doesn't know what's going on in the market." The source was referring to Miyazawa's earlier comment that the BOJ could intervene alone if other members of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations are reluctant to take concerted action.

The Japanese Government is planning to ask for joint market intervention to stem the yen's advance at a G-7 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Washington next Thursday. But given the cool reaction so far from other G-7 nations, Japanese monetary authorities are becoming increasingly concerned.

MITI Head Voices 'Anger' at Yen Rise

OW2304023893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0230 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Japan's trade minister voiced anger Friday at the yen's surge in value against the U.S. dollar on foreign exchange markets, saying it was acting as a dampener to the government's new pump-priming measures. International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori told a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting, "I feel anger at the yen's sharp appreciation, led by political speculation."

Mori acknowledged that his choice of words was unusual for a politician, but said, "I actually feel anger, frankly speaking." Expressing concern over a possible bad impact of the exchange rate on the nation's economy, he said, "It comes just when our economy is about to head for a smooth recovery."

The minister said the yen's rapid gain would affect not only Japan's economy but also the U.S. economy and bilateral cooperation in propping up the global economy. He said there was a need to carefully watch the movement of exchange rates for some time, adding, "If we take action, it means we acknowledge the yen's appreciation, but we don't yet."

Mori quoted Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as saying after the cabinet meeting that the dollar-yen rate fuss would take a long while to calm down. Mori ruled out the possibility of cutting utility charges because of windfall profits gained from the yen's jump, saying, "The time is not quite ripe, because we are not sure whether the dollar-yen rate will take root at the current level." The dollar closed at a record low of 110.20 yen in Tokyo on Thursday. At midmorning Friday it was trading at 110.45 yen.

Hayashi Views Yen Rise, German Rate Cut

OW2304015693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Friday he hoped the overnight decision by the German Bundesbank to cut its official discount rate will serve to stimulate the European economy and hence contribute to relieving unemployment problems in the region. Hayashi, speaking at a regular press conference after the morning cabinet meeting, said the 0.25 percentage point cut, effective Friday, is in line with expectations among other Group of Seven (G-7) major economies.

But he said the currency market was "making an overheated reaction" to the rate reduction to 7.25 percent per annum. The dollar plunged momentarily to 109.60 yen, renewing its post-World War II intraday lows in London overnight. "Foreign exchange rates sometimes go up and sometimes go down... we will keep in touch with other countries," viewing the situation from broader perspectives, he added.

Turning to the expected meeting by finance ministers and central bankers of the G-7 in Washington next week, Hayashi said issues concerning economic growth among leading industrialized nations and in the Asia-Pacific region are likely to be on the table. He said he plans to explain Japan's recently announced 13.2 trillion yen fiscal stimulation package, and ask Japan's G-7 partners to make further efforts to pump up their own economies.

On Russian aid, Hayashi said the new systematic transition facility (STF) agreed on by the G-7 last week, which will be launched in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to support Russia's transformation into a market economy, is not exclusively targeted at Russia, but will also be accessible to other possible candidates. He said the IMF is currently working on the details, including the STF conditionality arrangements.

'Source': German Rate Cut Effect Limited

OW2204145493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1439 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 22 KYODO—A Bank of Japan source said Thursday [22 April] a German rate cut came rather "unexpectedly," but it will have "almost no effect on dollar-yen trading." The German Bundesbank announced earlier cuts in its Lombard emergency lending rate to 8.5

percent from 9 percent and the discount rate to 7.25 percent from 7.50 percent, effective Friday.

"The rate cut will rather send the dollar higher against the German mark, and this may become a factor for the U.S. unit to rise against the yen," the source said. Concerning the impact on the world economy, he said, "Good results can be expected, with room made for other European nations to ease their credit."

Meanwhile, a market source said, "A cut in the Lombard rate has been discounted in the market, but that of the discount rate came unexpectedly." He also said the rate cut will have little impact on the yen.

Fiscal Year 1990 Per Capita Income Up 6.1 Percent

OW2304084893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—Per capita income in Japan in fiscal 1990 amounted to 2,944,000 yen, up 6.1 percent from the previous year, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) reported Friday [23 April]. The growth rate for income in the year, which ended on March 31, 1991, slowed from 7.5 percent in the previous year, as Japan's "bubble" economy began to collapse, EPA officials said. The figure incorporates both personal and corporate income.

By prefecture and district, Tokyo recorded the highest per capita income of 4,467,000 yen, 2.23 times the figure for Okinawa Prefecture, southern Japan, the lowest of all. The gap between Tokyo and Okinawa widened from 2.22 to 1 the previous year.

Tokyo was followed by Osaka Prefecture with per capita income of 3,348,000 yen, up 6.5 percent, Aichi Prefecture (including Nagoya) with 3,242,000 yen, up 5.4 percent, Kanagawa Prefecture (including Yokohama) with 3,190,000 yen, up 5.1 percent, and Chiba Prefecture with 3,084,000 yen, up 9.5 percent. Kanagawa posted the highest real economic growth rate of 9.1 percent, followed by Mie Prefecture with 7.1 percent and Chiba with 7.0 percent. The weighted average of economic growth rates in all prefectures was 5.1 percent.

North Korea

Daily Denounces U.S. Sanctions Efforts

SK2304020693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0018 GMT 23 Apr 93

[NODONG SINMUN 23 April special article: "It Is the United States that Should Be Subject to International Sanctions"]

[Text] The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The United States and international reactionaries are further strengthening maneuvers of pressure and blockade against us by presenting various unreasonable pretexts. Because of this, the situation in our country has been constantly strained and the danger of war is increasing.

Today the United States and its follower forces are viciously maneuvering to impose international sanctions on our country by labeling us as non-compliance to the safeguards accord.

This is an undisguised hostile act [chokdae haengwi] of the United States and its follower forces to stifle [apsal] our Republic.

We are making efforts for fair fulfillment of the safeguards accord. However, the United States and its follower forces are attempting to impose sanctions on us by picking a quarrel with us and slandering us. This is endlessly shameless.

From the day the safeguards accord was concluded, our Republic not only sincerely fulfilled obligations according to the accord but also offered all conveniences to the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and to its inspection team members, and cooperated with them so that they can satisfactorily carry out their missions.

For our sincere cooperation, the IAEA's inspection members repeatedly expressed their thanks to us. This has also been clearly indicated in reports forwarded by IAEA's director-general to its Board of Governors meetings.

Even after our Republic declared its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], our Republic revealed its readiness to fulfill its obligations stipulated in the safeguards accord.

Nevertheless, the United States and its follower forces are raving about our non-compliance to fulfillment of the safeguards accord and so forth. According to what they claim, our disallowance of inspection of military facilities constitutes non-compliance with fulfillment of the safeguards accord. This is indeed a preposterous sophistry.

As for the two sites [tugaeui taesang] on which the IAEA secretariat is enforcing inspections, they are ordinary military facilities [ilban kusa taesang] that have nothing to do with nuclear activities. Therefore, they are not the targets of inspection, according to the safeguards accord.

Indeed, it is a brigandish act to insist on inspection of what is not the target of inspections.

(Claudio Pava), member of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Chamber of Deputies of Italian Parliament, said that enforcing special inspections on the two military sites in North Korea is clear violation of the IAEA's regulations.

The one who failed to fulfill the safeguards accord is not our country but the United States and some circles of the

IAEA secretariat who laid artificial obstacles to our fulfillment of the safeguards accord.

Some circles in the IAEA secretariat systematically abused the IAEA regulations and safeguards accord in an attempt to label us as non-compliance to fulfillment of the safeguards accord under the United States' manipulation.

According to the Article 5 of the safeguards accord, they have an obligation to protect materials obtained from nuclear inspections. Violating this regulation, however, they handed the materials, which are results of the inspections of our country, over to the United States.

In the meantime, the United States fabricated materials concerning our nuclear activities and gave them to the IAEA Secretariats. The materials of alleged information from a satellite are a good example of the forged materials.

The United States has systemically intervened in the IAEA's inspections of our country and stimulated the IAEA Secretariats to forcibly conduct special inspections of us.

In its report to a security meeting at the White House in 1992, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency insisted that the United States has to make the special inspection team include members whom it can rely on. In a recent report, the CIA said that the United States must imminently induce North Korea to accept special inspections.

The United States had the IAEA director general attend a joint hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 to be informed of our country's nuclear plans. It forced him to conduct special inspections of our country.

This shows that it is none other than the United States that does not implement the safeguards accord. It is also the United States, not the DPRK, that must be referred to the United Nations and must be put on international sanctions.

The United States is the ringleader that proliferates nuclear weapons. It is no secret that the United States has provided South Africa with technology, funds, and materials for the development of nuclear weapons. When a uranium mine was developed in South Africa, the United States controlled this country to establish an atomic energy bureau in it.

The Jordanian newspaper AL-DUSTUR has recently exposed that a U.S. company had provided a nuclear reactor to South Africa with an approval of the authorities.

According to the U.S. Nuclear Energy Committee, about 90 South African experts have been cultivated in U.S. nuclear laboratories.

Under U.S. control, South Africa has assisted Israel in developing nuclear weapons. According to materials, Israel conducted nuclear tests three times in 1979 and in March and December 1986 in the cooperation with South Africa.

In a recent report, Russia's External Intelligence Bureau exposed that Israel has made 100 to 200 nuclear weapons.

It is also well known that the United States protects the nuclear armament of South Korea and Japan. According to materials, South Korea set out the first plan for the development of nuclear bombs in the late 1960s. It attempted to make public its completion of nuclear weapons development in 1981. In 1991, South Korea extracted 3,300 kilograms of plutonium.

South Korea's nuclear weapons development which has been carried out under the patronage of the United States has reached a grave stage. In connection with Japan's recent introduction of a large amount of plutonium from France, the U.S. Department of Defense has submitted to the U.S. Congress a document which clarifies its position that the introduction of plutonium does not matter in view of the defense of nuclear materials. This constitutes an official patronage of Japan's plutonium introduction plan and is, therefore, an crimial act of encouraging the Japanese militarists' nuclear armament ambition.

For the reason of these facts alone, the United States should assume due responsibility before the international community and should receive judgement from it. It was the United States which initiated the nuclear arms race by manufacturing nuclear weapons for the first time in the world. It was also the United States which created nuclear terror in the world by using nuclear weapons for the first time.

The United States is invariably seeking to achieve its nuclear ambition. According to data, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons are deployed still in the U.S. mainland and U.S. military bases overseas. In its recent report the U.S. Defense Intelligence Center stated that even if the U.S. proposal for nuclear disarmament is implemented the number of those nuclear weapons that the United States can use easily will be approximately 17,000.

The nuclear armories in the United States are being replaced with new nuclear weapons. The U.S. Department of Defense announced its plan to have 1,600 nonstrategic nuclear weapons anew in the fiscal year 1993. The department is also actively pushing ahead with the star wars plan which attempts to deploy nuclear weapons in space. This can be proven by the fact alone that in the national defense spendings for the fiscal year 1994 $3.8 billion has been appropriated to the implementation of the star wars plan, as in the previous years.

The act of the United States which has deployed numerous nuclear weapons on the earth, thereby creating a nuclear threat to mankind, runs totally counter to the NPT, the purpose of which is to prevent a nuclear war and to ensure world's peace and the development of mankind's civilization by deterring nuclear arms race, promoting nuclear disarmament, and eliminating nuclear threat.

The United States, as a depository state of the NPT, has the duty of not threatening our Republic with nuclear weapons, a non-nuclear state. Nevertheless, the United States is threatening our Republic with nuclear weapons. It is further increasing nuclear armed forces and strengthening its maneuvers for nuclear war exercise on the Korean peninsula.

The British newspaper INDEPENDENT wrote that the conduct of a nuclear war exercise runs counter to the safeguards promise by the nuclear states of the NPT toward the non-nuclear states.

As we see, it is the United States which does not implement the nuclear safeguards agreement. It is also the United States which should be referred to the United Nations for international sanctions. Nevertheless, the United States is clamoring about sanctions and the like in connection with our nuclear issue, without uttering a single word on its crimes. This is like the thief turning on the master.

The United States and its follower forces should look straight at our people's will and should act discreetly. If and when they continue to attempt to place pressure and to impose collective sanctions on us we will be compelled to take effective self-defense measures against it.

NODONG SINMUN Denounces U.S. 'Nuclear Ambition'

SK2304092093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—The United States and the forces following it are trying hard to take international sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, charging it with "noncompliance with the safeguards agreement".

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says the target of sanctions is not the DPRK but the United States.

The analyst notes:

The United States is the chief culprit that has proliferated nuclear weapons.

It is nobody's secret that the United States supplied South Africa with technology, funds, material, etc. necessary for the development of nuclear weapons.

Under its manipulation South Africa helped Israel in manufacturing nuclear weapons. Israel carried out three rounds of nuclear tests—in 1979 and in March and December 1986. The Russian Foreign Intelligence Agency released a report recently disclosing that Israel has manufactured 100-200 nuclear weapons.

It is also well known a fact that the United States has encouraged the nuclear armament of South Korea and Japan.

The nuclear ambition of the United States remains invariable.

In its recent report the U.S. defense intelligence centre said that even though the U.S. proposal for nuclear disarmament was materialized, some 17,000 nuclear weapons which the U.S. can use easily would remain.

The United States, a depository to the Nuclear Nonprolifertion Treaty, is obliged under the NPT to refrain from threatening the DPRK, a non-nuclear state, with nuclear weapons. But it is threatening the DPRK with nuclear weapons. It has intensified nuclear arms buildup and nuclear war exercises on the Korean peninsula.

Nevertheless, it is crying for "sanctions" against the DPRK under the pretext of the "nuclear problem", while keeping mum about its own crimes.

If it tries to continue putting pressure on and take any "collective sanctions" against the DPRK, the latter cannot but take effective self-defensive countermeasures.

KCNA Reports 21 Apr U.S.-ROK 'War Exercise'

SK2304091093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 23 Apr 93

[quotation marks as received]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets Wednesday staged a joint air-ground war exercise against the North with the mobilisation of several dozen fighters, fighter-bombers, pursuit, assault and observation planes in Uijongbu, Kapyong and Chunchon, South Korea, and an air battle exercise and bombing exercise in the skies above Oeyon Islet, Tanyang and Yongwol with 250 fighters of various types, military sources said.

In separate action, the U.S. imperialists let Pacific-based "KC-135"s refuel some 20 fighter-bombers in the air, making a shuttle flight between Anmyon Islet and Imja Islet, South Korea, in a war exercise. The continued play with fire of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets shows they are rushing headlong toward aggression and war.

Syrian Vice President Departs Pyongyang 22 Apr

SK2204121193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice-president of the republic and vice-chairman of the National Progressive Front, left for home today after paying an official goodwill visit to Korea to celebrate the birthday of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

It was seen off at the airport by Pak Song-chol, vice-president of the DPRK and presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, officials concerned, Syrian Ambassador to Korea Yasir Farah and foreign diplomatic envoys.

Workers Party Delegation Departs for Belgium

SK2204120993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK, left here today for Belgium.

General coordinator of the People's Vanguard of Costa Rica Humberto Vargas Carbonel, a delegation of the Romanian Party for New Society, a delegation of the League of Communists-movement for Yugoslavia and a delegation of the Workers' Party of Ireland left for home on the same day.

Kim Il-song Receives Family of Martyr Choe Il-chon

SK2204120293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1111 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—The Great Leader President Kim Il-song today received the bereaved family of revolutionary martyr Choe Il-chon including Yu Tae-chong, a Korean resident in the United States.

Kang Sok-sung, director of the party history institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and officials concerned were present on the occasion.

The bereaved family presented a floral basket and a gift to President Kim Il-song congratulating him on his birthday and wished the great leader good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a talk with the bereaved family in an amicable atmospere, recalling with deep emotion the brilliant career and exploits of revolutionary martyr Choe Il-chon Choe embarked on the anti-Japanese revolution already in the days of the "down-with-imperialism union" and made an active contribution to the struggle for the liberation of the country and performed distinguished exploits in writing "a short history of Korean revolutionary movement overseas in a book which deserves to be valued as a national treasure conveying the history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to the posterity, and in the struggle to accomplish the cause of national reunification.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for the bereaved family.

Martyr Awarded Reunification Prize

SK2204120893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—"National Reunification Prize" was awarded to revolutionary martyr Choe Il-chon who had performed distinguished feats in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and in accomplishing the cause of national reunification.

Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president of the DPRK, conveyed the prize to the bereaved family at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Wednesday.

Choe Il-chon served as chief of a branch office of TONG-A ILBO during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, while engaging himself in underground activities in Changchun under the influence of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song. In those days he collected abundant materials on the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and wrote good articles.

In Seoul right after the liberation of the country he, basing himself on those materials, authored "a short history of Korean revolutionary movement overseas", a book which deserves to be valued as a national treasure conveying the record of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to the generations to come.

Proceeding into the political world in South Korea after liberation, Choe worked at important posts such as the head of the political department of the Korean revolutionary party, a member of the committee for welcoming general Kim Il-song and an executive member of the national independence federation, and fought with devotion for the unity of the democratic forces and reunification of the North and the South. He was assassinated in Seoul during the fatherland liberation war.

His remains were interred in the patriotic martyrs' cemetery Wednesday.

Reportage on 10-Point Unity Program Continues

Daily: Unity Program 'Brilliant'

SK2204120693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 22 Apr 93

["Brilliant Embodiment of Great Magnanimous Politics, Benevolent Politics"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—"10-point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation for Reunification of the Country" worked out by the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and adopted at the 5th session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly is a great charter of national unity which makes it possible to achieve unity of the whole nation and accelerate the reunification of the country, the cherished desire of the Korean nation, declares NODONG SINMUN today in an article titled "Brilliant Embodiment of Great Magnanimous Politics, Benevolent Politics."

The author of the article says:

The programme is a banner of national unity and an epochal event of the great magnanimous politics of our party which enables those who have once remained indifferent to reunification or committed anti-communist treacheries against the nation to join in the patriotic course toward national reunification, to say nothing of those who desire it.

Today among the Korean nation, those who want and work for national reunification are patriots and those who seek division in collusion with outside forces are traitors. Our nation should unite with those supporting national reunification according to that criterion and advance hand in hand with them in the ranks for accomplishing the cause of reunification. We should show leniency even to those who once opposed national reunification and committed crimes against the country and the nation but have repented of their mistake and taken a patriotic road of national reunification, and should unite with them, not asking about their past.

Among those who did shameful acts against the country and the nation on the criminal pro-American, anti-communist road, not a few of them declared farewell to their past and took the course for national unity and reunification.

Every point of the programme embodies the magnanimous politics, benevolent politics of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who treat and lead fellow countrymen with broadest magnanimity while being relentless to the imperialist aggression forces.

Our fellow countrymen stand at the crossroads whether to open the way for national reunification through great unity of the whole nation or to fall a victim to the aggression forces, remaining captive to antagonism and confrontation within the nation. Under this situation, our nation should choose to reunify the country through great unity of the whole nation under the banner of the 10-point programme.

Let us all contribute to the noble cause of national reunification and bring earlier the day of reunification upholding this programme.

21 Apr Editorials Support Program

SK2104112793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Papers here today call for paving the way for national reunification through great unity of the whole nation in editorials dedicated to the 45th anniversary of the joint conference of the representatives of political parties and public organizations of North and South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN says:

The joint conference held in April 1948 with the participation of representatives of 56 political parties and public organizations in the North and South was a historic assembly in which the representatives with different ideas and ideologies, political views and religious beliefs and isms gathered for the first time and discussed important issues of the nation.

The April North-South joint conference which recorded a brilliant chapter in the national history of the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country was a fine fruition of the chuche-based idea of great national unity propounded by the respected leader comrade Kim Il-song and the noble tradition and historic experience achieved in the struggle to implement the idea.

But, grave obstacles still lie in the way of national reunification due to the criminal moves of confrontation and division of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The present situation raises to our fellow countrymen a very important question whether to open the way for national reunification through great unity of the whole nation or to fall a victim to the big powers by remaining captive to antagonism and confrontation within the nation.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song worked out the "10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country" brightly indicating the most correct way of overcoming the difficulties with the nation's own united efforts and successfully achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The 10-point programme is a patriotic programme and a great charter of national unity.

It is the honorable and worthwhile task of the entire Korean people to implement this programme and reunify the country. Implementation of this programme means true patriotism and it leads to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

MINJU CHOSON says all the Korean people must unite as one nation, upholding the 10-point programme, transcending all differences, be he in North or in South or in an alien land, a communist or a nationalist, a have-not or a have and an atheist or a theist.

Agriculture Workers Support Program

SK2104114693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The entire members of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and the working people of agriculture will do every effort to realize the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation and are full of the resolutions to actively contribute to the cause of reunification by increasing agricultural production, said Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Central Committee of the union in a statement issued to the press on April 20 supporting the 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation published by the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

"The programme is a torch-light of reunification and patriotism which indicates the way of tiding over the grave difficulties standing in the way of national reunification at present and achieving the cause of reunification by the united efforts of the nation and a militant banner which gives encouragement and new conviction of reunification in the '90s to the entire Korean people and our agricultural working people," he said, and went on: "The entire fellow countrymen should think of the nation before the different ideas, ideologies and systems and promote the interests of the whole nation before pursuing regional and class interests and subordinate all activities to achieving the cause of national reunification.

"Only by so doing is it possible to achieve national reunification, save the nation and attain common prosperity of the nation.

"I express the belief that the South Korean peasants and peasants' organizations will firmly unite under the banner of great national unity, deeply conscious of their national duty to accomplish the cause of reunification and more actively join in the nationwide struggle for national reunification.

Hanminjon Mission Supports Program

SK2104114493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—The 10-point programme of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country worked out by the Great Leader President Kim Il-song is a common programme of the nation to pave together the way of national reunification through the close unity of all the fellow countrymen in the North and the South and abroad as one nation, said Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in a statement published on April 20.

"This programme signifies an important measure to bridge over the grave difficulties facing the nation at present and jointly pave the path for the nation," the statement says, and goes on:

"Our Hanminjon and people in South Korea will valiantly kindle the flames of patriotic struggle for national reunification, joining hands firmly with fellow countrymen on the basis of patriotism and the spirit of national independence.

"The U.S. imperialists must immediately pull their aggression forces and nuclear weapons out of this land, unconditionally stop interfering in the internal affairs of our nation. And the present 'regime' claiming to be a 'civilian government' must renounce the policy of dependence on outside forces and manifest its will to get U.S. forces withdrawn in keeping with the nation's desire for independence and take practical steps to stop joint military exercises with foreign troops for good and rid itself of the U.S. 'nuclear umbrella'."

Program Distributed as UN Document

SK2204121093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—Work of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song "10-point Programme of Great Unity of the Whole Nation for Reunification of the Country" was distributed as official document S-25577 of the U.N. Security Council dated April 12.

Rallies Congratulate Kim Chong-il on New Post

SK2104112893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Rallies have been held at offices, industrial establishments, schools and People's Army units throughout the country to congratulate respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, and congratulatory messages and letters to him have been adopted there.

During the last ten days more than 23,000 units adopted messages and letters.

Party members and other working people and People's Army soldiers throughout the country warmly supported and hailed the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the National Defence Commission, considering it a political event remarkable in carring forward and developing the chuche-based socialist cause and cause of building the Army pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Workers and peasants across the country including those of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the Komdok Mining Complex and Mangyongdae and Chongsan Cooperative Farms stressed in their congratulatory messages and letters that the determination of the entire workers and agricultural working people to defend the illustrious leader as the centre of unity and leadership at the cost of their lives has become more unshakable with the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces of chuche, as chairman of the National Defence Commission.

Students of more than 700 universities and colleges across the country including Kim Il-song university, Kim Chaek University of technology and Toksong College of mining and intellectuals of scientific, educational, cultural, public health and press organs, said in their messages and letters that it is the greatest honor of the Korean people to have elected as chairman of the national defence commission the illustrious leader who is leading the socialist cause of our era to victory with literary and military accomplishments, loyalty and filial piety.

People's Army soldiers in their messages and letters expressed their steadfast will to accomplish the chuche cause of building the army, tightly holding the red banner of revolution handed over by the first and second generations of the revolution.

Sinuiju Light Industry Effects Production 'Upsurge'

SK2204053793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 21 (KCNA)—Light industrial factories in Sinuiju are effecting a big upsurge in production to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the fatherland liberation war.

They carried out their first quarterly targets at 112.3 percent and are keeping production on a high level this month.

Sinuiju situated in the lower reaches of the Amnok River in the northwestern part of Korea is the seat of North Pyongan Province and a border city.

The city is a mighty light industrial base of the country.

The light industry of the city is composed of diverse branches producing textiles, shoes, garments, paper, foodstuffs, daily necessities, etc.

The textile industry is the part and parcel of it.

The textile and knitwear mills produce mixed-spun fabrics of staple fibre and vinalon, high-quality suit materials, yarn, blankets and overcoat material, lining, underwear and knitted goods.

The paper-making, shoe-making and daily necessities industries rely on rich raw materials of the province.

The Sinuiju shoe-making factory annually turns out far more than ten million pairs of shoes of some 160 kinds.

The Sinuiju cosmetic factory produces some 60 kinds from ordinary to quality cosmetics.

Enamelware such as wash-basins, tea trays and buckets are widely known as specialities of the city.

Besides, scores of local industrial factories in the city produce foodstuffs, articles for cultural use, electric articles for domestic use, resin goods, household utensils, and other light industrial goods.

The variety of light industrial goods produced in the city totals 8,600 kinds and they are popular for their good quality.

University Unveils New Technology Building

SK2204052493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song wrote the signboard of Kim Chaek University of Technology, upon the completion of a new building of the university, a comprehensive base of the training of scientific and technical personnel of the country.

The grand new building on a bank of the River Taedong in the capital city of Pyongyang is a silver-white fifteen-storeyed building with a floor space of nearly 100,000 square metres.

The building has some 1,000 rooms including separate and joint lecture rooms, chair rooms and laboratories and cultural and welfare facilities including a 2,000-seat auditorium.

With the completion of the new building, the university founded in 1948 has been provided with better educational conditions in addition to the already existing buildings with a floor space of more than 108,000 square metres, so that it may produce a greater number of revolutionary personnel who will contribute admirably to the socialist construction and scientific and technical development of the country.

A ceremony to unveil the signboard "Kim Chaek University of Technology" personally written by President Kim Il-song took place Wednesday.

Present there were Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, party and government cadres, officials concerned, teachers and students of the university and builders.

New Lathe Developed; Soon To Be Mass-Produced

SK2104063793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 20 (KCNA)—Korea has recently developed a new machine tool "Kusong-10".

The lathe devised by the April 3 machine tool complex is capable of outside, inside and lateral face cutting, threading and drill and reamer processing.

The lathe makes little noise and vibration as the number of main-motor gears has been reduced and the inner motor system simplified with the use of a multiple-speed motor.

Emergency stop, pedal brake and other safety mechanisms are fully provided in handling the machine.

The maximum processing diametre is 430 mm, the number of revolutions of the main axis is 40-2,000 per minute and the number of revolution stages is 16.

The output of the principal motor is 3.7 kw and the mass of the machine is 1,500 kg.

With its wide scope of revolutions of the main axis and simplicity in operation, the machine ensures a high productivity and precision in processing.

The lathe will be mass-produced soon.

KCNA Reviews 23 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK2304091793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the bereaved family of revolutionary martyr Choe Il-chon. NODONG SINMUN reports that President Kim Il-song received gifts from foreign parties and delegations.

President Kim Il-song sent thanks to the officials who contributed to the successful holding of the 11th April spring friendship art festival, says the paper. Papers carry congratulatory messages to President Kim Il-song from foreign party leaders on his birthday and a report that he received messages and letters from celebration meetings held in different countries.

An article of NODONG SINMUN says President Kim Il-song founded the anti-Japanese people's guerrilla army on April 25, 1932 and strengthened it into a steel-like unit. Papers report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received gifts from the chairman of the Romanian party for new society, the Workers' Party of Ireland and the bereaved family of revolutionary martyr Choe Il-chon.

The election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as chairman of the national defence commission of the DPRK was reported in foreign countries, according to NODONG SINMUN. The paper reports that Comrade Kim Chong-il's works were published in booklet in foreign countries.

The daily carries a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the international seminar on the present situation and the tasks of political parties held in Benin, an account of the seminar, the joint statement and the final resolution adopted at the seminar. The paper gives an account of a national meeting of active stock-breeding workers held in Pyongyang. Economic briefs of the press include reports about the construction of power stations and the nursing of sturdy rice seedlings.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that Kim Il and Kim Kwang-chol of the DPRK placed first at the 9th Asian free-style wrestling championship. The paper carries a report that the president of Cape Verde met with a delegation of the DPRK Foreign Ministry and gives accounts of the sojourn of foreign party leaders in Korea. Papers convey world public voices denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and the "special inspection" clamour of the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

NODONG SINMUN carries a report that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged ground, naval and air war exercises against the North and an article titled "U.S. imperialists—two-legged beasts" on the atrocities of the U.S. imperialists. Foreign party leaders and delegates staying in Korea held a press conference on the first anniversary of the publication of the Pyongyang declaration, says the paper. The Lao president called for building an independent, united country, reports the paper. The paper runs an article captioned "it is the United States that must face international sanctions."

* Article Views Currency Problems

932C0098A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 93 p 11

[By Unification Affairs Desk reporters Kim Kuk-hu, Yu Yong-ku, and O Yong-hwan]

[Text] The North Korean currency system is, ironically, more complex than Western systems.

The reason is that along with the currency for general use by residents, a special currency for foreigners' use (converted from foreign currency) is also in circulation.

The special currency is divided into the red notes and the blue notes, denoting conversion from socialist- or capitalist-country currency respectively.

Consequently, there are so many kinds of money in circulation—altogether, 34 kinds of them.

Due to the underdeveloped commodity economy, however, the money is generally recognized as nothing more than a "chit" for exchange.

Even for that, its "popularity" is so low because of the scarcity of goods that it does not even serve the purpose of bribing.

Currently, North Korea has five kinds of paper money—100 won, 50 won, 10 won, and 1 won; its coins consist of 1 won, 50 chon, 10 chon, 5 chon, and 1 chon.

The basic monetary unit is "won" and the subsidiary unit is "chon" (1 won equals 100 chon).

The distinguishing features of the new bank notes issued at the time of the 1992 currency reform are that they are about 20% smaller in size than the old notes, adopting a Western style in design and pattern.

As for the quality of paper, however, high-grade vellum paper is used instead of pure cotton material. Consequently, they last only for two to three years.

The 100-won note carries on the front President Kim Il-song's portrait and, on the back, a picture of Mangyongdae, the house where he was born.

Its size is about the same as our 5,000-won note.

The 100-won note means a big money equivalent to the worker's one-month pay. Moreover, the act of folding the note at the part of the Kim Il-song portrait amounts to lese majesty. For these reasons, it is said that few 100-won notes are in circulation.

Printed on the front side of the 50-won, 10-won and 5-won notes are imaginary figures of workers and students along with the Chuche Ideology Tower, the Chollima Statue and Kim Il-song University respectively—and on the back, Samjiyon, Nampo Floodgate, and the Great Study Hall of the People. The 1-won note, which is in largest use, carries the image of People's Actress Hong Yong-hui, 38, holding flowers, against the background of Mt. Kumgang.

Hong Yong-hui is the heroine who, picked by party secretary Kim Chong-il, starred in the North Korean film "Flower Girl." The coins are made of aluminum and tin; the 1-won and 5-chon coins are slightly larger than our 100-won coin in size.

The special currency began to be issued in 1979 to prevent the drain of foreign currency from the country. Foreigners are required to convert their currency into it at the foreign currency exchanges.

Unlike the general currency, the special currency is issued by the Foreign Trade Bank.

It consists of eight kinds of paper money—50, 10, 5 and 1 won plus 50, 10, 5 and 1 chon—and 1, 5, 10 and 50-chon coins.

The foreign currency is converted into the blue or red notes, the former in exchange for currencies of capitalist countries such as the dollar and the latter for those of socialist countries like the Chinese yuan.

Besides, North Korea issues commemorative coins every now and then.

Especially, in 1991, when a unified North-South team won the first place in the women's group match at the World Ping-Pong Championships held in Japan, Pyongyang drew attention by issuing a commemorative coin featuring Hyon Chong-hwa, a champion of our country.

Currently, the official rate based on agreements with countries concerned is 94 chon to the dollar, while the commercial rate applicable to settlement of trade accounts is 2.25 won to the dollar. So, the North Korean 1 won is equivalent to approximately 350 won in our money. The value goes much lower at the black market rate, however.

* Teams To Suppress 'Un-Socialist' Behavior

932C0103A Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean 25 Feb 93 pp G1-G2

[Report on Groups Organized Against 'Un-Socialist' Behavior]

[Text] North Korea recently organized "Groups for Doing Away With Un-Socialist Behavior" to heighten the people's will for production and strengthen solidarity under its leadership.

The groups were organized in October last year at Kim Chong-il's behest, in Pyongyang and other municipalities and provinces. They consist of the same number of personnel selected from each of the five departments—the public prosecutor's office, the Public Security Ministry, the party committee, the Socialist Working Youth League, and the Federation of Trade Unions.

According to data about North Korea obtained recently, the size of the groups varies depending on the size and importance of the regions, factories, enterprises and cooperative farms they are assigned to. In the case of a special-class enterprise, it is approximately 30 persons.

Activities by the group members in frontier regions are different from those in non-frontier regions. Major activities of the groups in non-frontier areas are the placation of residents aimed at stirring them into production, and the exposure and prevention of illegal acts by working people and workers.

They conduct, in the production and other work sites, propaganda on Kim Il-song teachings and party economic policies, and hold meetings for explanations, lectures, and discussions to urge the implementation of party lines. They also make surprise visits to offices and work sites of factories and enterprises to verify whether or not products are being pilfered, and for other supervisory purposes.

To uncover illegal activities by residents in particular, they even raid their homes night and day to see if they have contraband brought in from overseas, including China and the United States, or using ROK products, and to expose offenders.

The Groups for Doing Away with Un-Socialist Behavior in frontier regions are larger than those in non-frontier regions, both in size and the range of activity.

For instance, in Sinuiju's case, the group there has some 300 members, despite the fact that the city has no major agencies or enterprises; toward the end of last year, the then director of the Central Prosecutor's Office, Han Sang-kyu, personally visited the group as a responsible officer, directing and supervising the group's activities.

They use such fabrications in their indoctrination of residents in frontier regions as "South Korea is attempting to infiltrate troops into Sinuiju via Dandong, China," or "South Korea is supported by America and therefore will go to ruin as soon as U.S. troops withdraw." They also frequently issue emergency calls to militiamen for midnight training, respectively dubbed as "atmosphere" (for general enemy movements), "wind" (for emergency enemy movements), and "storm" (for super-emergency enemy movements), and focused on instilling residents with a sense of war crisis.

Along with these activities, the groups are endeavoring to prevent overseas compatriots and foreigners visiting North Korea from spreading antisocialist ideologies among residents. It is known that in worst cases they even put pressure on visitors by telling them to "leave quickly if you have finished your business" to meet a strong protest from them.

The reasons that North Korea organized the "Groups for Doing Away With Un-Socialist Behavior"—separately from the existing watchdog and control organizations including the Ministry of National Defense [as printed], the Ministry of Public Security, and the Three Revolutions Teams—are that people frequently make false reports of their production achievements to receive daily necessities or pilfer products by labelling them as rejects eluding the eyes of public security agents who are permanently stationed in their the production organizations, and that defeatism and ideologically loose phenomena are spreading among the population in the wake of the collapse of socialism in East Europe and the ROK-Russia and ROK-China normalization. The groups' operations are aimed at checking and eliminating these things.

South Korea

DPRK Envoy: North Ready To Rejoin NPT

SK2304002793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] North Korea has decided to rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT], the Yonhap News Agency reported in a Cairo dispatched story yesterday.

Quoting a North Korean Embassy official in Cairo, Yonhap said, "The Pyongyang regime has already decided to nullify its earlier stance and will sustain its membership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

The news agency said it held a telephone interview with the North Korean official on condition of anonimity.

North Korea announced to drop out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in March while under heavy pressure from the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency to allow special inspections of its suspected military facilities for developing nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang has, however, sought direct talks with the United States to negotiate with the "hidden card" of nuclear weapon development.

In the meantime, Yonhap also reported in a Tokyo dispatched story that Yi To-sop, North Korean Ambassador to Thailand, welcomed U.S. acceptance of holding high-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

Envoy to UN Denies Report

SK2304015993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, April 22 [date as received] (YONHAP)—North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon said Thursday press reports that North Korea had decided to stay in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] were not true. "There has not been any change in our position," Pak told South Korean reporters in the lobby of the United Nations when asked if North Korea had decided to retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT. In a telephone interview with YONHAP news agency, Ho Chong, deputy chief of the North Korean Mission to the United Nations, said the reports on the North Korean decision on the NPT "were a result of misunderstanding in communications."

On Thursday, an official at the North Korean Embassy in Cairo said that North Korea had decided to stay in the NPT. The official, who declined to be identified, said, "it is true," when asked to confirm press reports from Hong Kong that North Korea had decided to retract its decision to leave the NPT. He declined to say when the decision was made. Nor would he comment on whether North Korea made the decision as a gesture for improvement of relations with the United States as a high-level meeting was being proposed between Washington and Pyongyang.

"North Korea could not withdraw its decision to withdraw from the NPT unless the United States removes its nuclear threat against North Korea," Ho Chong said. "It is obvious the (North Korean) nuclear issue must be resolved in North Korea-U.S. negotiations," Ho said. Ho nevertheless welcomed the U.S. decision to hold talks with North Korea as soon as U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff returns to Washington from a visit to South Korea for an early solution to the nuclear issue. Ho said he hoped that the U.S. Administration would show its intention to carry out early high-level talks with North Korea.

"The United States should make its position clear (about the talks) through an official channel," Ho added. Ho noted that an official North Korea-U.S. channel is already in existence in Beijing and said the important point was spelled out in President Kim Il-song's 10-point principle, in which he called for the elimination of nuclear threats from the Korean peninsula.

Earlier, an official at the North Korean Mission told YONHAP that it was premature to link retraction of North Korea's decision to withdraw from the NPT with U.S.-North Korean talks. The official reiterated the North Korean position enunciated in a March 12 Foreign Ministry statement, which demanded the removal of all nuclear threats against North Korea and the absolute neutrality of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

To stay in the NPT, he said, North Korea demanded that the United States and South Korea stop holding the military exercise called Team Spirit, allow inspections of nuclear facilities in U.S. military bases in South Korea, remove the U.S. nuclear umbrella over South Korea and pledge to Pyongyang it will not use nuclear weapons against North Korea. The U.S. assurance not to use nuclear weapons against North Korea should not be of the general principle applied to all NPT member nations but a specific promise to North Korea, the official said.

He claimed that the IAEA had undertaken "spy activity" by providing the United States with nuclear data that Pyongyang gave to the IAEA. The NPT itself was made for the superpowers, he said. North Korea appeared to be taking a rigid position in preparation for the proposed talks with the United States, according to some analysts. Unlike the vice ministerial meeting in New York in January, North Korea appeared to hope that the proposed U.S.-North Korea talks would serve as a channel between the two countries on a long-term basis for discussions not only on the nuclear issue but on overall bilateral questions, they said.

Unification Board Comments

SK2304062493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea has not yet expressed any official position whatsoever on easing tension between the two Koreas, the National Unification Board said Friday, responding to reports that Pyongyang has reversed its decision to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"North Korea is steadfastly sticking to its position of calling for high-level talks with the United States, and it seems to me that the U.S. and Chinese attitudes have taken flexibility toward it," spokesman Choe Pyong-po said.

"At this stage, the Seoul Government is thus positively supporting combined international efforts to get Pyongyang back to the treaty and accept special nuclear inspections. It believes that the high-level talks could contribute to relaxation of tensions through resolving the nuclear issue if the dialogues come true," Choe said. The South Korean Government expected the process to lead to eventual inter-Korean nuclear inspections and clear suspicion over the north's nuclear development program, he added.

Official: DPRK Dialogue May Resume Before 12 Jun

SK2204135293 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1212 GMT 22 Apr 93

[By correspondent Kim Chin-su]

[Text] A high-ranking ROK Government official said today that U.S.-DPRK high-level talks, which U.S. Undersecretary of State Tarnoff had mentioned, may possibly take place later this month or early next month and that North-South dialogue may be resumed before 12 June, when the three-month period for North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is over. This means that the ROK Government would mobilize all channels to satisfactorily resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Toward this end, the government has reportedly started the restructuring of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC]. The government has designated (Yi Sung-ton), former director of the Foreign Policy Planning Office of the Foreign Ministry, as JNCC chairman. The post has been vacant since Former Chairman Kong No-myong was appointed ambassador to Japan. Upon returning from Bangkok, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu will notify North Korea of this and undergo the necessary appointment procedures.

The government has also reportedly designated (Chang Chae-yong), director of the Americas Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, as JNCC vice chairman and is reportedly closely examining a plan to charge the Foreign Policy Planning Office with the JNCC operation, of which which the Americas Bureau had been in charge.

However, it is not certain that the JNCC would be a channel for North-South dialogue. Regarding this, a government official said: Operating the JNCC at a time when the UN Security Council has been discussing the North Korean nuclear issue may be inappropriate. Therefore, the government is closely examining a plan to establish a separate channel of North-South dialogue.

YONHAP Reports on Tarnoff's 23 Apr News Conference

SK2304063493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0620 GMT 23 Apr 93

["Tarnoff Clarifies U.S. Position on Possible Talks With North Korea"—YONHAP headline]

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—The United States said Friday that if it holds high-level talks with North Korea, they will be limited to persuading Pyongyang to retract its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and accept outside inspections of its nuclear facilities. Peter Tarnoff, undersecretary of state for political affairs, reaffirmed the U.S. position that North Korea could never hope to improve its relations with the United States unless it accepted these conditions. Tarnoff spoke at a press conference at the U.S. Information Service. He met with President Kim Yong-sam Thursday.

If U.S.-North Korean high-level talks were held, the United States would impress upon Pyongyang how seriously it regarded the North Korean nuclear weapons development problem, Tarnoff said. The United States would also stress the importance of the time frame for it to retract its decision leave the NPT, which is June 12, and to accept international inspections of its nuclear facilities, he said.

"The proposed high-level talks will have a limited character of relaying these U.S. positions," he said. "Even if the United States and North Korea hold talks, the Korean problem has to be resolved through dialogue between South and North Korea." Tarnoff said the United States would not make any concessions in the talks, nor would it accept any prior conditions for holding the talks.

Contacts between Washington and Pyongyang would be purely supplementary to efforts by the United Nations or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to solve the North Korean nuclear issue, Tarnoff said. With regard to China's role in the issue, Tarnoff said China had similar concern over the North Korean nuclear development plan and desired denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Tarnoff said he believed that China, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and North Korea's ally, would play its role in persuading North Korea to remain in the NPT and accept outside inspections.

As in a vice ministerial talk between the United States and North Korea in New York in January, Tarnoff said, the United States would inform South Korea as well as other U.S. allies of everything it discussed with North Korea in any high-level talks.

The United States would consult with the South Korean Government at every stage of the way in its contact with North Korea, and the United States would never make any decision on its own, Tarnoff said. Proposed U.S.-North Korea talks will never replace discussions at the United Nations Security Council or at the IAEA, either, he added.

Government Offers DPRK Nuclear Reactor Technology

SK2304061193 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 93 p 2

[By reporter An Hui-chang]

[Text] The government revealed on 22 April that it has decided to provide North Korea with funds and technology that will enable North Korea's nuclear power plant in Yongbyon to fully function as a power plant. This decision was made as a measure to remove suspicions over North Korea's nuclear weapon development. It will discuss this issue with concerned countries like the United States and Japan.

The government is now mapping out concrete measures such as the replacement of the non-economical and dangerous graphite-moderating carbonic acid gas cooling-type atomic reactors at Yongbyon's nuclear power plant with light-water reactors.

Ever since its completion in 1986, the 5-MW test atomic power plant in Yongbyon has remained devoid of power-transmission lines or other necessary equipment. In September 1992, it was hurriedly equipped with electric poles and other installations prior to the IAEA's third inspection of North Korea. In view of this fact, western countries including the United States regard it not as a normal power plant but as facilities which produce plutonium for nuclear weapon development, and are demanding inspections of it.

The government believes that placing the Yongbyon atomic power plant facilities under the international society's control on the one hand, and augmenting [poganghada] them on the other is an effective method for completely removing suspicions over North Korea's nuclear weapon development. Furthermore, in determining this policy, the government seems to have taken into consideration North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon's request for the South's support of the North's facilities, which he made during his visit to Seoul in July 1992.

A high-ranking government official said, "Should North Korea achieve the satisfactory results of having the United States agree in negotiations with North Korea to suspend the Team Spirit exercise and to not use nuclear weapons against North Korea, North Korea will have no reason to oppose this policy." He then added that "the government is also considering organizing an international consortium composed of nuclear-related enterprises and is discussing this with the United States and Japan."

Foreign Minister Comments on U.S.-DPRK Dialogue

SK2304085593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States need to analyze how sincere North Korea was in its recent messages about being willing to solve the nuclear problem before they initiate dialogue, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Friday. "The two countries need to look into North Korea's actions, how much of what they say they can actually promise." Han told an airport news conference on his return from Bangkok. North Korea's Foreign Ministry and deputy chief of mission to the United Nations recently announced that high-level Pyongyang-Washington talks would solve all problems, including the nuclear issue.

Han was in Bangkok to attend a session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), where he met with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and they discussed in detail how to deal with North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

"The meeting was honest and sincere," Han said. "China indicated it will do what it can to help solve the crisis. This will certainly come across as a strong message to North Korea." He brushed aside a statement by the presidential spokesman on Thursday [22 April] about President Kim Yong-sam not expecting China to actively intervene in solving the nuclear question. The spokesman had said that Kim made the remark in a meeting with U.S. Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff. "I believe that President Kim made no such remark. He was just trying to emphasize the role of the United States," Han said. He also brushed off reports that a North Korea-U.S. contact is imminent and that Tarnoff is to be the American representative. All that is certain is that the contact will be at a higher level than the counselors' talks being held in Beijing, Han said.

Discusses Qian Qichen Meeting

SK2304133793 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1223 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Interview with ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu by correspondent Yu Kun-chan; Han Sung-chu speaks from his residence—live]

[Text] [Yu Kun-chan] How are you? You must be tired from your trip. The expectations were high concerning the ROK-PRC foreign ministers' talks in that China is the only state that can affect North Korea's mind. Do you think the talks were a success?

[Han Sung-chu] Well, I think there was quite a bit of success in that the foreign ministers of the two countries met face to face, expressed their positions, discovered the common grounds of interests between the two countries, and discussed how the two countries can cooperate to resolve this issue.

[Yu] Some say that we may be relying too much on China.

[Han] The Chinese role is not so much a role of a mediator as a role of persuading North Korea. With the passage of time, China's weight will increase. Therefore, although we are not excessively dependent on China, I think we can have fairly high expectations concerning China's role.

[Yu] While there are signs that North Korea may soften its position regarding its nuclear issue because of the Chinese mediation and the promotion of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, there is a rumor that North Korea is considering retracting its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. How much possibility does our government think there is for a change in the North Korean attitude?

[Han] I am not aware of the rumor concerning North Korean moves to retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT. But I think it will be beneficial for North Korea to abide by international obligations, including the retraction of its decision to withdraw from the NPT at an early date. Pressure will increase with the passage of time. Then it will become more difficult for North Korea to abide by the obligations even if it wishes to do so.

[Yu] How much success does our government expect from the upcoming U.S-North Korean high-level contact?

[Han] No specific plan has been established as to the U.S.-North Korean contact. It is North Korea that wants this contact. China also wishes the United States to accede to the North Korean request. Therefore, although it is too early to be optimistic, I think persuading North Korea will be possible to some degree.

[Yu] If North Korea does not change its attitude despite this carrot policy, what will be the next step?

[Han] Since this issue is dealt with by the UN Security Council at present, the UN Security Council will have to take some tough measure—probably economic sanctions—if the issue is not resolved before 12 June. We hope, of course, that this will not develop as far as that, but if no change comes by that time, such a measure will be unavoidable.

[Yu] Some note that our government revealed its card for resolving the North Korean nuclear issue too straightforwardly. What do you think of this?

[Han] The government meant to make it clear that if North Korea abides by international obligations, it will thereby benefit. It also pointed out the disadvantages if North Korea does not abide by international obligations. It is true that it is not desirable to reveal everything beforehand in solving problems like this, but I think it necessary to make clear the advantages and disadvantages.

[Yu] Thank you for your time.

[Han] Thank you.

DPRK, Iran, Cuba Reportedly Plan Anti-U.S Alliance

SK2304064893 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] The Japanese newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN reported on 23 April from Cairo that North Korea, Cuba, and Iran are now promoting a tripartite alliance against the United States in an effort to strengthen their military and economic ties. This newspaper reported that progress has been made in forming such an anti-U.S. alliance among these three countries because their national interests coincide on the basis of the barter trade of arms, petroleum, and sugar that each has respectively.

The newspaper said: Iran which has maintained good diplomatic relations with North Korea has been importing from North Korea various types of weapons, including Scud missiles, in return for its exports of petroleum to North Korea. Recently, it is also promoting negotiations with North Korea on importing "Nodong No. 1" missiles which have a range of 1,000 km. Therefore, there is the possibility that these missiles will be shipped from North Korea within this year at the earliest.

Russian Daily: Kim Il-song in Poor Health

SK2304012193 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] KURANTY, a Russian daily, reported on 22 April that the health of North Korean President Kim Il-song, who is now 81 years old, is so bad that he is even having difficult walking and that, accordingly, he is not expected to last for more than three years.

Quoting the remarks of a foreign figure [woekuk taepyo] who had reportedly met President Kim recently, the daily revealed that his health condition was such that he could barely walk and raise his right hand.

The daily stated that foreign medical doctors [woekuk chonmunuisa] predict that judging from his present health condition, President Kim will be able to maintain his life for approximately three more years. The daily added that the medical doctors' estimate of President Kim's life is very credible considering the fact that they were correct in estimating the time left for former Soviet leader Chernenko.

Negotiator Cites U.S. for Failure To Reach Beef Agreement

SK2304024593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 23 (YONHAP)—The fourth South Korea-U.S. beef negotiations broke off after 10 days of verbal tug-of-war Thursday [22 April] without an agreement. The two sides managed to reach a kind of compromise on Korean beef market opening and import quotas during the protracted talks, but failed to narrow differences enough to put their agreements in writing.

Seoul-side chief negotiator Kim Dong-tae, director general for livestock affairs at the agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ministry, said that the two countries could not produce a final agreement because Washington had tried to include provisions that were not discussed or agreed on during the talks. Korea would follow the agreed contents despite the failure of the negotiations, he said.

During the extended talks, initially scheduled for two days on April 8-9, the two sides set Korea's 1993 import quota at 99,000 tons and raising the volume 5 percent annually to 104,000 tons in 1994 and 109,000 tons in 1995. They agreed on improvements in marketing in Korea, extending the simultaneous buy and sell (SBS) system to the private sector such as the beef processing association and restaurants by 1994 and to some 400 supermarkets by 1995.

On the central issue, free market access, Seoul and Washington decided to work out differences to meet with an agreement in 1990 that Korea was either to scrap import limits by July 1, 1997, or follow GATT (General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade) regulations. But the U.S. side demanded that Korea spell out its responsibilities after gatt resolution in the agreement, which caused the talks to end. The two countries parted without setting a date for their next talks. The previous round was held in Seoul two months ago, and also failed to produce tangible agreements.

Commission Rules Against Chip Firms in U.S. Dumping Case

SK2304030493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0042 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 22 (YONHAP)—The International Trade Commission ruled in a 3-to-3 split decision Thursday that South Korean exports of computer memory chips hurt American industry. As a result, Samsung Electronics Co., Goldstar Electron Co. and Hyundai Electronics Co. must deposit cash equivalent to the punitive duties set by the U.S. Commerce Department on their exports from May. The dumping estimation was finalized at 0.82 percent on Samsung, 4.97 percent on Goldstar and 11.45 percent on Hyundai after a miscalculation of the margins announced in the final determination last month was corrected.

The anti-dumping duties are unlikely to have a fatal effect on the Korean manufacturers' advancement to the United States, which is currently short of DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memory) chips, Korean industry sources said. The relentless strength of the Japanese currency will also help the price competitiveness of Korean chips, they said. Korea exported 854 million U.S. dollars worth semiconductors last year, and accounted for 30 percent of the U.S. market.

Army Activates Somalian Peacekeeping Unit

SK2304092493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Preparations for South Korean Army engineers to join the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Somalia kicked off Friday with activation of the unit. The Defense Ministry intends to complete preparations by late May, and finish training and education of the soldiers and send them off in late May or early June, a ministry spokesman said. He said the ministry would make every effort to have them ready for dispatch in late May, but the date would be set by the United Nations. An activation ceremony was held in the morning at the headquarters of the 189th Heavy Construction Battalion, which was chosen for the peacekeeping unit, the spokesman said.

Defense Ministry Plans 'Full-Time Reservist' Force

SK2204134393 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have decided to push ahead with the introduction of a "full-time reservist forces system" [sanggun yebigunje] whereby the soldiers are discharged from the short-term active service and serve in the reservist forces for a certain period of time going on duty from home and returning home each day.

To this end the authorities are also considering the establishment of a "mobilization command" which will be charged with the mobilization system of the reservist combat capability. For this the authorities are planning to submit a bill on revising relative laws to the regular National Assembly session this fall.

If the full-time reservist system is introduced, it will bring about an effect of reducing the active service soldiers by some 200,000 men, cutting defense spending by approximately 300 billion won annually.

A high-ranking Defense Ministry official in charge of reservist combat capability on 15 April said: The National Defense Institute has recently submitted a report to the Defense Ministry on the result of its political research on the introduction of a full-time reservist system. Not only the reservist troops policy team of the Defense Ministry but also the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is responsible for calculating the requirement of combat capability, has agreed to this system.

The Defense Ministry official stated: The Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff will complete the internal review of the introduction of the system and submit a bill on revising the relevant laws to the regular session of the National Assembly this year.

Concerning the review of the establishment of the mobilization command to be charged with the reservist combat capability, the Defense Ministry official said: The mobilization command will play the role of a functional command supporting operations at the same level with the operational commands of the ground, naval, and air forces.

According to the "full-time reservist forces system" which the Defense Ministry is considering introducing, the full-time reservists will receive the same length (currently six weeks) of recruit training as those in the active service, and after serving in the Army units for one year, they will be discharged from the active service and serve in the combat capability-fostering units [chollyokhwa pudae] for a certain period of time. The total term of service of the full-time reservists will be three to five months longer than the active service components, and those serving in the combat capability-fostering units will go on duty from home and return home each day.

Concerning the background of the introduction of the full-time reservist forces system, a Defense Ministry official said: Since the enlistment of the defense troop soldiers [pangwibyong] will come to an end at the end of 1994, we ought to consider ways to maintain the defense troop soldier combat capability-fostering units [pangwibyong chollyokhwa pudae], which form one regiment among three regiments of each homeland division at present.

The official said that the riflemen and other simple combat components and the rear units of the Army corps commands of the Kangwon and Kyonggi regions, except the mechanized units which require skills, will be expanded with these full-time reservist forces.

The official said that the administrative components of the homeland reservist forces units and the various assistant components of the active service units which have so far been the defense troop soldiers will be replaced by the full-time reservists rather than by those in the active service.

The Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff estimated that the requirement of the full-time reservists will be 200,000.

In view of the annual expenditure for each soldier in the active service amounting to 1.3 million won, the introduction of the system will result in the saving of an annual defense budget of over 300 billion won by the reduction of officers and men in the active service and by the saving of the expenditure for the maintenance of barracks for them, etc. The official said that the budget thus saved will be used to enhance the quality of the Armed Forces.

LDP Candidates Lead in Early By-Election Results

SK2304134593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1318 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] candidates were initially leading in all the three National Assembly by-election districts. The Election Management Commitee did not report it, but reports reaching from ballot counting stations indicate that in the Kwangmyong District, Choe Chong-taek of the DLP won 1,421 votes against the opposition Democratic Party's [DP] Son Hak-kyu who drew 1,282 as of around 8:30 p.m. [local time]

In the Saha District in Pusan, DLP's Pak Chong-ung won 13,064 votes while New Politics (Shinjong) Party's Hong Sun-o garnered 5,252. Democratic Party's Kim Chong-kil ranked the third with 4,990 votes, as of around 9:30 p.m. when some 25 percent of ballots cast were counted. No figures were available for the Tongnae-A district, but it was learned Kang Kyong-sik of the DLP was leading DP's Chong In-cho with a large margin.

Economic Board Projects 7 Percent Annual Growth

SK2304114493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—During the 1993-98 economic plan period, South Korea's economy will grow an average 7 percent annually and inflation will be stabilized at around 3 percent, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said Friday. The current account balance will post a surplus of 10.4 billion U.S. dollars, 1.6 percent of the Gross National Product, by 1998, and the GNP, due to brisk exports, pegged consumption, and active facility investment, will rise 7 percent a year, according to the EPB report. Thanks to a global economic recovery, a surge in trading and stabilization of prices and wages at home, exports will rise 9.1 percent on a shipment volume basis and 11.6 percent on a current price basis a year during the plan period.

Imports will climb 7 percent in amount and 9.2 percent in value due to stable demand at home despite greater market opening, active exports and increasing investment in facilities and building. Due to improvements in exports, the current account balance will be in the black from 1994 and grow to 1.6 percent of the GNP (10.4 billion dollars) by 1998.

Construction investment will grow 7 percent a year, encouraged by expanded housing programs, while social infrastructure and facility investment will pick up 7 percent on industrial restructuring and new investments aimed at raising industrial competitiveness. Private spending is expected to rise slower than the speed of economic growth with the help of stabilization in real estate prices and wages. Prices will not rise faster than GNP growth due to stable gross demand and wages are to go along with rises of labor productivity. Consumer prices and manufacturer prices will notch up 3.6 percent and 1.2 percent a year, respectively.

The Korean currency will continue to be appreciated against the dollar due to a current account surplus and price stabilization with its exchange rate losing 2.5 percent a year to 669 won a dollar by 1998. Per capita GNP will grow 13.6 percent to 14,506 dollars in 1998 from 6,749 dollars last year.

NSP Arrests Pusan Resident for Spying for DPRK

SK2204130393 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1215 GMT 22 Apr 93

[By correspondent Yi Chun-sam]

[Text] The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] announced today that it had detained Kim Chon-tae, a 31-year-old man living in Pusan, on spy charges and had been questioning approximately 10 other people whom Kim had tried to win over.

The NSP investigation so far shows that the spy Kim Chon-tae went to Berlin on February 1990 at the invitation of spy Pak Tong-kon, operating in Germany, and went to Pyongyang via Moscow aboard a North Korean civilian plane a month later with the help of Kim Yu-sun, a North Korean spy instructor.

Upon arriving in North Korea, Kim Chon-tae received spy training and indoctrination education for 22 days at a guest house near Pyongyang, joined North Korea's Workers Party, and received instructions to win over South Korean workers and send them to North Korea. He returned to South Korea in April 1990 carrying $2,000 in operational funds.

The NSP also announced that he had tried to win over four expelled workers in Pusan and sent to North Korea lists of members of labor unions of business companies and printed materials published by the movement circles.

Kim confessed that he had received instructions from a spy instructor who is known only as Department Chief Kim and other North Korean officials to win over South Korean workers to establish an underground party; report information on the South Korean situation and the activities of the movement circles; infiltrate into ruling and opposition parties and report secrets to North Korea; and acquire photographs and maps of defense contractors in Pusan, Ulsan, Changwon, and other cities and send them to North Korea.

Kim was born in Imsil, North Cholla Province, dropped out of Iri Commercial High School, North Cholla Province, and worked as an insurance salesman and a clerk at a construction company in Taejon, Pusan, and other cities.

* Kim Yong-sam's Leadership Style Examined

932C0087A Seoul WOLGAN CHUNGANG in Korean Mar 93 pp 148-165

[Article by reporter Kim Hyon-chong: "In-Depth Study: President Kim Yong-sam's Leadership Style"]

[Excerpts] **Never Shows Hand**

When we attempt to prognosticate the Kim Yong-sam (YS) administration's future course and its methods for reaching its goals, we should begin by putting ourselves in his shoes and viewing the situation and issues from his standpoint. This shift in viewpoint is all the more necessary because the president would not show his hand. From the day he was elected up to the moment he was inaugurated, President Kim adhered to an operational mode of seeking a tactical advantage by concealing his hand.

It is highly possible that even after his inauguration, the president will continue to keep his personnel plans and policies tightly to himself for a while before he embarks upon executing them with lightening speed. This is different from former President No's modus operandi. Mr. No had a tendency to send up a trial balloon to test public opinion on his ideas about some personnel and policy options before adopting the final plans. On the contrary, President Kim is the type who seeks to consolidate his position by concealing his inner mind.

As is customary in covering politics, these past two months correspondents have refined their skills in "guessing game." Most probably, they will continue to do so.

The primer in honing skills in guessing game is understanding the subject. Kim Yong-sam the politician, Kim Yong-sam the person, and Kim Yong-sam the ruler are the same Kim Yong-sam. Viewed from President Kim's standpoint, his election to the presidency on 18 December signifies the fulfillment of his 50-year old goal. When the story came to light during the last election—the story that he had the sign "Future President Kim Yong-sam" on the wall of his room when he was a middle school student—it became the talk of the town.

The opposition doubted it saying, "in those days the country was under the U.S. military government, and how could a teen-age middle school boy conceive of the idea of becoming president?" Many agreed to this doubt. However, this episode is given particular stress in the book "Kim Yong-sam in Modern Korean History," authored by Keiji Kobayashi of Japanese newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN and regarded as the "authentic biography of Kim Yong-sam." In Chapter 56 of this book it is said that Kim Yong-sam voraciously read the "Story of the Three Kingdoms" and "We Need a Hero" by Yusuke Tsurumi. In fact, appended to the book is the testimony by Kim Yong-ho, Kim Yong-sam's cousin, that Kim Yong-sam had the sign "Future President Kim Yong-sam" pasted on the wall of his boarding room. This attests to President Kim's commonly acknowledged character of being simple and forthright.

Ordinarily, when children reach seven, they dream of becoming a famous man such as a president or general some day, and they keep this dream alive until they reach 10. Even considering the peculiar state of the unbounded liberty of the teenage mind, it is proper to interpret the fact that an 18-year old boy still kept such a dream alive as an indication of his political-orientation and the simplicity and forthrightness of his mind. Normally, children of that age stop dreaming of becoming a president or general and begin dreaming of becoming a medical doctor or a Ph.D.

If it was not a 50-year long dream, it was a 40-year long cherished dream, supposing he began dreaming of becoming a president since he was elected to the National Assembly in 1954 at the age of 25 under the system of presidential government.

If we venture to see things from his point of view, we should first ask ourselves this question: In what frame of mind he would have been when he realized his life-long cherished dream? An ordinary person would become tearful with emotion when he becomes the first-time home buyer, reminiscing on his hardship in the past. As it occasionally happens, some people even become loose and take to gambling when their life becomes easier after buying their new homes. It is the weakness of ordinary mortals that when they succeed in one endeavor they are apt not only to be carried away by emotion but also become heady and lose sight of their mid- and long-term goals.

The goal remains a goal until it is attained. But once it has been attained, the goal is no longer a goal. The moment one has attained his goal, the attainment has the negative effect of quenching at one stroke his drive that has hitherto been directed at that goal, unravelling the whole mind-set associated with it at the same time. Anyway, President Kim has not exhibited any sign if he actually experienced a sharp "emotional impact" when he knew he had attained his goal.

He Was Seen Tearful Just Once

It goes without saying that there are signs indicating that President Kim is a "human being" just like all of us. He watched election returns at a private home with a Mr. K, a relative of his wife. He was leading his opponents with an overwhelming margin all the way, after the first 40,000 votes were counted. According to one of the persons who were in the same room with him, Candidate Kim Yong-sam was nervously walking back and forth in the room. One of his special assistants who was at the party headquarters building on the following day bragged, "You know the transfer of power virtually took place last May" (when the intraparty election was held to choose the presidential candidate). But on the evening of 18 December when the vote counting was proceeding, the candidate himself was not in a mood to make such a boastful statement.

The moment he knew he was elected, the president-elect adopted a new goal to become "an admirable president, "a president who will be remembered in history," and "an outstanding president." To tell the truth, apparently he really believes in this commitment. An instantaneous mental transition is the hallmark of professionalism. However, the human mind is not a machine. When one says that the president-elect set his new goals and pledged himself to move straight toward these goals the day after he realized his 40-year long dream, such a statement may be taken as political rhetoric. But such instantaneous change is hard to understand, however nimble the psychological process at work deep in the human mind may be.

One may define Kim Yong-sam's personality as a "perpetual engine" or an "amalgamation of goal-oriented characteristics," although this description leaves room for elaboration. For this and some other reason, a psychologist says, "President Kim has something in him that is emotionally underdeveloped." People like Pak Sang-chang, who leads an organization that has the odd name of "Korean Council of Psychoanalytic Political Science," drew attention when he defined Kim Yong-sam's personality as "a man who has never experienced mental torment and who will never become neurotic, a man who likes something large, great, and strong and who is egocentric." Although President Kim is a graduate of the philosophy department, Mr. Pak thinks the president is the type who prefers pragmatic actions to mindgame.

By the accounts of his intimates and eyewitnesses, President Kim differs somewhat from ordinary people in emotional makeup. Like many of us, he likes bean paste cabbage soup and "ponghui sollongtang," but he is not an ordinary man at all. As his career shows, he is a 40-year veteran of many political battles.

Pak Yong-hwan, deputy director of the Office of the Party President who has accompanied Kim Yong-sam for so many years, said, "I saw tears in Yong-sam's eyes only once." According to Pak, Kim Yong-sam was tearful when Assemblyman So Sok-chae was forced to leave the now defunct Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] after much ado following the uncovering of his involvement in the 1989 bribery case related to a by-election on the east coast.

Recently, there was a similar episode. When Kim Yong-sam visited the grave of Kim Tong-yong, a former cabinet minister, in Kochang last September, he had tears in his eyes. When Mr. Kim walked up the hillside and stood before the grave while the wailing in mourning reverberated, many on hand saw his eyes become red with tears.

Despite these episodes, Kim Yong-sam has peculiar emotional characteristics different from an ordinary mortal. Journalists accompanying him say that "Yong-sam has never shed tears over matters of his own. When his defeat in the 1987 presidential election became certain, he was the first to break the silence and said to his aides, "Let's start from scratch all over again."

They may sound very mundane, but there are some eyewitness stories to which this reporter would like to attach importance. It happened when he visited the Somun Church in Taegu last fall. Kim Yong-sam being an elder of another church, the senior clergyman let him sit in one of the front seats reserved for elders. These seats, about 30 in all, are so arranged that they face one side of the hall, whereas seats for ordinary members of the congregate face the front. When I was "watching" the service from my seat in one of the pews for ordinary Church members, Han Yi-hyon, Kim Yong-sam's assistant for economic affairs, he poked me in my ribs. It was the time for offering a prayer. All the elders were praying with their heads down except Kim Yong-sam, who held his head straight with his eyes closed. His height is less than 170 centimeters, but he looked taller than the preacher at the pulpit.

Never Kowtows

Kim Yong-sam never kowtows to any human being or any system, for that matter. Everyone attending a weekly Chongwadae meeting was required to wear his name plate. But Mr Kim insisted on not wearing it, and finally got away with it. At each vital power struggle in the ruling party that took place shortly after he joined, he patiently held his ground. In another episode, when he visited the Haeinsa Temple in Hyopchon, he did not bow to the Buddhist statue there, although it is customary for visitors to bow to the statue. This aroused the ire of Buddhists in the Pusan and Kyongnam area. Such behavior seems natural for him when viewed in the light of what happened at the Somun Church. Standing before the main shrine, he stood with his head held up straight, only his eyes closed.

Having never shed tears over one's own affairs may be a quality for being a boss. But not to lower one's head at the church or at the temple is out of the ordinary. One may wonder whether Kim Yong-sam is obsessed with the idea that "lowering one's head means defeat." It is very significant that he is an elder not only in the church but also in politics. A considerable number of current politicians were snotty kids when he became a member of the National Assembly for the first time. This elder statesman armed with the philosophy of survival of the fittest is our new president.

If we define these qualities—his indomitable spirit of self-reliance, his simplicity and forthrightness as demonstrated in setting his goals early on in his youth, and his unique goal-orientation in setting as high goals as possible—as the main characteristics of Kim Yong-sam's personality, we will have his image as a "political machine" devoid of human emotion. At least when it comes to politics, the field of his profession, he suppresses his feelings to the extent that people say he will never become neurotic.

He may be seen as a "very efficient political machine," not influenced in the least by any feeling or emotion that might otherwise stands in the way of achieving the goal. His mind is dominated more by strategic consideration for how to set the next goal and pursue it than by any emotion that may accompany success or failure.

This same Kim Yong-sam has become our president by his own efforts. The fortitude of never showing tears to his followers and never kowtowing to anyone; his political know-how that has fully ripened in the course of his political career; and his achievement-oriented, efficiency-oriented devotion to his goal—the combination of all these qualities, added to the technique of sweeping everything that stands in his way, the technique that he had further sharpened following the three-party merger—helped him attain the seat of power.

However, his journey to the summit has not been completed. He thought Mt Halla was the highest, but he has come to realize that there are Mt. Paekdu and Mt. Everest. For him, executing the office of the president does not mean that he can now ramble through the steppe, but it rather means that he has to find new goals and climb up the rugged terrain to reach them.

He was able to calmly set the new goal of becoming "a president who will be remembered in history" because he has his qualities as a political machine described above. He is a political machine indeed. If there is no goal, he would set one, and as long as there is a goal, he would never rest until the goal is accomplished. He may be called a tuber entwined with layers of desire for achievement.

How To Generate Chilling Atmosphere

Some predict that "in all probability, the era of the Kim Yong-sam presidency is likely to start by kicking off a cold wind. This cold wind will not blow against the particular person, namely, his predecessor, as happened in the liquidation of the past at the early stage of the Sixth Republic, but at nonpersons such as the Establishment, the entrenched interests, or authoritarianism.

In this respect, Kim Yong-sam may be compared to the Khrushchev of 1956. The barrier Khrushchev had to surmount was not Malenkov, who was in power slightly over a year as his predecessor. The object he had to bring down or overpower was the spector of Stalin and the Stalinist establishment that had ruled the Soviet Union for over 30 years. A Kim Yong-sam intimate said, "for Yong-sam, No Tae-u the individual is no problem." Just as Khrushchev did not bother about Malenkov.

Regarding Kim Yong-sam's targets, his special assistant had this to say: "What matters is the remnants of the 30-year long military regime that has hardened just as the Soviet system bequeathed by Stalin did. The authority and entrenched interests accumulated in the era of the development-oriented dictatorship still endure, and they are precisely the target President Kim has to bring down to be a president worthy of its name. If necessary, he should not hesitate to generate a chilling wind or atmosphere—a tense, compressed atmosphere." But how is he going to generate this chilly air and tense atmosphere, and where?

Ever since his presidential election campaign days, Kim Yong-sam has preached "change and reform." In the election time when the candidates randomly issue a potpourri of pledges, the substance of any proposed change and reform is obscure. The direction of change and reform is hardly discernible from pledges such as: "I will supply farm machines at half prices" (pledge made during the canvassing tour of Chunchon), and "I will relocate high-tension transmission lines running through the center of the city" (pledge made during the stumping in Kure).

On 27 January, quite some time after the presidential election, Kim Yong-sam defined the primary target of change and reform while visiting the Kuro industrial estate. He made it clear that "the first priority in his state administration will be attached to eliminating irregularities and corruption that are rampant in our society and achieving the revitalization of the economy." [passage omitted]

Beginning 1 January Kim Yong-sam created the atmosphere that gave a foretaste of his impending executive power, by calling himself the next president. DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] heavyweight Assemblymen Kim Yun-hwan, Yi Han-tong, Yi Chun-kyu, and Choe Hyong-u became the first targets he decided to work on. He met them one by one to ask for a hiatus in factional squabbles. Meanwhile, he stressed the need for reform. On 13 January he invited the DLP executives to a luncheon meeting at Building 63. During the meeting he declared: "Stability and reform are the ideas complementary to each other. Stagnant water gets spoiled. Genuine stability is achievable only when there is reform." This remark sounded like a reaffirmation of his dedication to reform. [passage omitted]

Another member of the Secretariat gave this explanation: "It is in line with the Kim Yong-sam style to shake the existing social structure before attempting to do something. Kim Yong-sam has always chosen the method of frontal attack. Raising some explosive issue when he tries to solve a difficult issue in hand is his speciality. It is not his style to build up troops and store military provisions prior to mounting an attack. It may be a blessing in disguise that the present socialist structure is so corrupt that it is fully amenable to Kim Yong-sam's blitz-type reform." When the college entrance examination scandal came to light in late January, the same official declared, "heaven is still on the Kim Yong-sam side."

Fighting Corruption, New Administration's Alpha and Omega

The question of the timing cropped up. The prevailing opinion was that it would be a waste of time for him to undertake something only after having been fully invested with all the paraphernalia of the presidential powers. Fears were expressed that should the new administration while away the first year or so without building the foundation for reform and effective rule, rumors about who will be the next president would begin to fly and the forces favoring the cabinet system of government might raise their heads.

Elimination of irregularities and corruption is booked as the first step in effecting sweeping change. Everyone agrees that all sorts of irregularities and corruption are rampant in every facet of our society—political, economic, social, and cultural—in various forms, such as under-the-counter political funds, express fees for expediting things, lobbying money, irregular school admission, rebate, illegal acceptance fees, tokens of appreciation, exorbitant fees for extracurricular art lessons, inspection fees, reserve funds, seed money, and so on. In view of this common perception, combating all these irregularities and corruption has been chosen as the first target in the agenda.

On private occasions, the new president's anti-corruption staff heatedly argues, "it is a costly business to maintain the entrenched interests and to get crumbs from these interests; and this phenomenon ought to be done away with." Originally, among the 250 key objectives for 14 fields in the reform plan, prepared shortly after the nomination of the DLP's presidential candidate, the anti-corruption issue was listed in the middle. But this same issue was subsequently moved up to the top because the staff came to realize the importance of this issue and because Kim yong-sam shared the same view.

Pak Chae-yun, special assistant for economic affairs, is said to be the first to come up with the idea that irregularities and corruption are behind all the fundamental contradictions which run through the economy and politics. He also proposed the revitalization of the economy as another foremost task of the national government in order to minimize the economic shock that would result from the combat against irregularities and corruption. What an exquisite mix!

At any rate, combating irregularities and corruption is not merely the first step for reform but the Kim Yong-sam Administration's alpha and omega—the vital task on which its fate will be decided. Corruption is so deep-rooted, and some even ask, "Hasn't Kim Yong-sam himself just come out of that same pit?" Accordingly, it needs more time to predict the outcome of the fight against corruption.

The methodology has been the focus of attention. At first, it was suggested that the Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI] be renovated so that it might be used as the leading agency for the anticorruption scheme. Immediately following his 27 January announcement that "the new government will attach the first priority to combating irregularities and corruption and revitalizing the economy in the conduct of state craft," Kim Yong-sam openly declared that the BAI would be used as the main instrumentality in the combat against irregularities and corruption, noting, "the BAI, although it has as many as 11 officials having the rank equivalent to vice minister, has been unable to function properly." This plan is the most definite one as of this moment. [passage omitted]

DLP To Be Shorn of Power for Now

The general consensus of the Yong-sam camp is that it is a waste of energy to use the "old sword" whose image has fallen to the ground as a first-line weapon, instead it is better to remodel a "less brandished sword" like the BAI. Sweeping elimination of irregularities and corruption being the goal, the BAI is better suited to the task than the Public Prosecutor's Office or the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP]. Needless to say, the idea of renovation subsumes a considerable extent of personnel reshuffle and a structural change in the organization concerned. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the idea of strengthening the BAI presages that under the Kim Yong-sam Administration, major government organizations will undergo a radical change in their respective stature. It foretells that there will be a vertical realignment in the power lineup among all power organs in the ruling camp as a whole, including the Public Prosecutor's Office. First, the DLP is expected to be downgraded considerably in the power structure during the first half of President Kim Yong-sam's term of office. The party is expected to regain its present stature only if Kim Yong-sam's reform plan begins to falter, or when the 15th general election draws near.

Some hold the extreme view that the party will be nothing more than "a voting machine for the enactment of reform legislation" in the early part of Kim Yong-sam's term of office. When the voice arose demanding cuts in the party posts, some of administrative personnel went so far as to anticipate the dissolution of the DLP. This fear stems from the precedents set under the past presidents. There was not a single president since President Syngman Rhee who did not tear down the old house and built a new one. The Liberal Party, the Republican Party, and the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], and the DLP were all created in that process.

A DLP mainstream centrist admitted that "at any rate the stature of the party is bound to shrink under the Kim Yong-sam administration." He opines: "The idea that Kim Yong-sam is a parliamentarian is nothing but a preoccupation. People think he is a parliamentarian simply because he stayed in the National Assembly with nine terms behind him." According to the same source, Kim Yong-sam ceased to be a parliamentarian when he resigned from the National Assembly in late 1992. According to him, the power center will naturally shift from the party to Chongwadae, from the National Assembly to the administration. [passage omitted]

With a plan in the works to downsize the Public Prosecutors Office, how the stature of the NSP and the National Tax Administration [NTA] will change is now the greatest concern. Entering mid-February, the opinion gained strength somewhat that the NSP will not be weakened as much as expected. This view is based on the pragmatic reasoning that when Kim Yong-sam was in the opposition and when his leadership position in the ruling party was insecure, the NSP looked like an enemy to him, but now that he is the president, his position will change. However, his key aides reject this argument, which they say is based on the assumption that human nature is such that the thought one had at entering the rest room changes by the time he leaves the room.

NSP Not To Be Weakened As Much As Anticipated

A mainstream assemblymen serving his third term in the legislature said, "I don't believe the speculation that the NSP will cease to collect information on domestic politics." "However," he added, "its scope will be drastically limited, and such information will be used sparingly rather than actively." He boldly predicted, "when the time comes, the remnants of the old ruling forces will tenaciously resort to politics through secretaries and aides on the surface while under the surface attempting to use exposure tactics." He declared, "I don't know what would happen if an exposure war breaks out inside the ruling camp, but for now we have no intention to govern the country by rely on information provided by the NSP."

Amid this atmosphere, the NSP will be made to concentrate on the collection of anticommunist information at home. Previously, there was the opinion that the NSP should engage in the collection of overseas economic information. But this issue is pending due to the Kim Yong-sam camp's fear of possible collusion between business and the NSP. The NSP issue is of such nature that it requires action and not argument. It appears that President Kim's determination for reform will once again be put to the test, over the NSP issue this time.

A large body of public opinion favors the strengthening of the NTA. President Kim's basic thought regarding the NTA, which corresponds to economic police, is that its functions and authority should be strengthened, with its attention focused on the have class and people living on unearned incomes. With the investigation of the scandal involving freshmen admission to Kwangun University as a momentum, a large body of pubic opinion demands the "public exposure of the names of violators." The proponents of this view think that instantaneously publishing all the names of tax evaders—such as real estate speculators, those given to a life of luxury and extravagance, business owners who spirit off their property overseas—will serve as a catalyst for uniting the people and as against future violators. Their argument is that anti-social offenders should be put to trial by public opinion as well as to criminal proceedings so that reform may be pushed with the "energy of anger" that erupts in this process.

Reportedly, with regard to the BAI, the NTA, the NSP, and Public Prosecutors Office, two sets of "organ cleansing" processes are being prepared, one through internal inspection and the other by external organizations.

What is more important than combating government corruption, strengthening the BAI, and downsizing the NSP is the handling of personnel affairs. Forecasting Personnel management is one of the areas in which the method of viewing things from Kim Yong-sam's standpoint needs to be applied. This is because when it comes to personnel reshuffling plans, he is doing his utmost to conceal his hand. As far as the personnel issue is concerned, it is more appropriate to examine his past personnel style, his unique strategy of "building a common perception only to crush it later," and the dynamics of power within the DJP than arguing about prospective appointees. [passage omitted]

There are two aspects to the characteristics of Kim Yong-sam's modus operandi, the one being his inclination in favor of generational change, and the other being the preferential treatment of his own group. His preference for generational change is understandable in view of the fact that he began to advocate in 1969 that people in their forties should be the standard-bearer of politics. When he was young, he called for generational change; but now when he is old, he attaches importance to experience. Apparently this seems self-contradictory. However, it seems to be clear that in organizing his staff, he takes the attitude of giving weight to young age.

Clearly, this propensity is hidden behind the secret of the political survival of the two Kims. They have their own skills in achieving their own rejuvenation by receiving transfusions from the outside or carrying out drastic personnel reshuffling. It is a well known fact that just as Kim Yong-sam organized the young New Democratic Party in 1979, Kim Tae-chung nominated a large number of dissidents and personages from student activist groups as candidates for the National Assembly in 1988 and 1992 on his party's ticket after seizing control of the party, and this strategy proved quite successful. When viewed in the same light, Kim Yong-sam's appointment of Hwan Pyong-tae and Kang In-sop as party vice presidents following the 13th National Assembly election jibes with his appointment of Yi and Cho as his vice president in 1979.

A reexamination of the significance of the 1979 personnel action foretells that young people of their forties and fifties will be appointed to party posts in larger numbers than expected, and that people belonging to the mainstream will be posted to the foremost front. The mainstream in this case refers to the broader spectrum of mainstream that actively cooperated with Kim Yong-sam in seizing the party hegemony as they did in the 1979 party convention. It is his political tactic to expand the frontiers of the mainstream during an election. Anyhow Kim Yong-sam built a strong one-man leadership structure in 1979 and rushed headlong to bring an end to the Yusin rule without budging an inch while weathering turmoils such as the struggle for constitutional amendments, the sit-in strike of YH female workers, and the controversy touched off by his interview by THE NEW YORK TIMES. Where is he going to dash forward this time?

His tactic of "building a common perception only to crush it later" does not necessarily apply to personnel management alone. Let us recall the DLP crisis over the issue of the presidential candidate selection process triggered by Kim Yong-sam during his stay in Cheju in the summer of 1991. He first demanded that the party make its choice of the candidate known early. But when this demand encountered opposition by Choe Yong-chol and others, he reaffirmed his position that for now he was against nominating the presidential candidate by election. In this case, his opposition to nomination by election became a common perception. But, one morning he suddenly announced that "I now agree to nomination by election and call for an early nomination in return," thereby seeking to reverse the tide.

Nullifying the initial common perception that "Kim Yong-sam does not favor nomination by election," he now turns around and says he agrees to nomination by election,. But in doing so, he injects a new demand, the demand for an early nomination, in return for this flip-flop. In this way by negating the initial common perception, he gives freshness to his image and pursues his original goal. This is what they call the Yong-sam style. When the press and the public have a certain common perception on his future options, he admits it as an accomplished fact without denying it. But afterward he reverses this common perception, giving freshness to his new position. His latest staff appointment shows his propensity to seeking change in common perception. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact the new president has come up with concrete goals for pursuing reform and eliminating irregularities and corruption, not many people are optimistic about the chances of success for his administration. Frankly speaking, it seems that the majority hold a wait-and-see attitude. Cynical speculation is rife in the street that "the new administration will hardly survive more than three years," or that "the constitution will eventually be revised to pave the way for a cabinet form of government." This speculation is different in tone from the speculation that was rampant for a while since last October that "the election would end in Kim Yong-sam's victory, but he would not be sworn in." Probably there are quite many people who pessimistically anticipate such a "worst-case scenario," and this clouds the political weather.

In order to put Kim Yong-sam's reform drive on the right track and create a new Korea that is really new in substance—not the kind of Korea just the face of the hierarchy has changed, with everything else unchanged—all barriers, internal and external, need to be removed. The first obstacle that apparently stems from Kim Yong-sam's personality is his "stance of giving weight to common sense." Common sense in this case refers to here is meant his own fixed ideas formed through his own experience as well as haphazard common-sense advice offered by outsiders. Since his election, Kim Yong-sam met many people to hear their suggestions. Everyone was asked to "recommend someone you think worthy of recommendation." On these occasions they reportedly made suggestions such as, "You better avoid using professors" in view of the experience of the Sixth Republic, and that "You should be careful about your personal safety." [passage omitted]

On the other hand, some people are worried about the control method that Kim Yong-sam has demonstrated for these past 60 days since his election. They note that he does nothing about irresponsible common perceptions, continues to use opposition-style political techniques, and gives minutely divided assignments to his subordinates. They point out that these are the personal shortcomings that Kim Yong-sam the "political machine" needs to correct now that his is the president. An official who has observed President Kim's personnel management style as applied on the government reorganization project said, "He seems to be trying to avoid having a control center for each field." The same official commented: "This is purely a matter of style and a matter of choice for the president. What matters is not the critical view that the president depends heavily on 'such and such a person' or that he has 'monopolized no one,' but how he handles his business." [passage omitted]

Could Have Same Fate as Forsaken "Activist Students"

The president's personal factors counts much, but the external factors are also important. It is highly possible that the Kim Yong-sam Administration will have one-on-one confrontation with the bureaucratic establishment, the military, conglomerates, the NSP, and the old political forces, or a simultaneous war against all of them. Those who know him predict the likelihood of one-on-one confrontation, citing the precedent that while the process of selecting the DLP presidential candidate was in progress, he isolated the DJP faction so that he could confront fractured elements on a one-on-one basis. But this prediction could be wide of the mark. Anyhow, understandably, there will be a showdown with the entrenched interest groups. Nevertheless, one thing that needs to be considered is that he could end up meeting the same fate as befell the "activist students." His basic strategy is to conduct people-centered administration for the people and with the support of the people. But unwittingly, he could be forsaken by the people. [passage omitted]

If things turn that way, Kim Yong-sam could choose one of the three options. The first option is that of going back to his old ways despite the fact that he is the president. But this could land him in the same fate of a forsaken prince. The second option is a variation of the first. It is the choice of tenaciously sticking to his belief and fighting to the end, ready to expose himself to bitter criticism. The second option may be workable in realizing his new goal of becoming "a president who will be remembered in history" because this goal and his zeal for its fulfillment are a reflection of his personality as a pure-minded person. The third and last option is that of whiling away his five-year term by swinging back and forth between Options 1 and 2. Meanwhile, however, he might agree to a constitutional amendment for the cabinet form of government under pressure or in consideration of his would-be successor. This is a variation of the third option.

Will President Kim be recorded in history as the eliminator of the old evils and the champion of reform or as the mediocre head of a transitional government? With the practice game over on 25 February, the real thing has started.

Burma

SLORC Establishes 1993-94 Economic Targets

BK2204085793 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 1 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council designated the year 1992-93 "Economic Year" and took multifacted measures through programmes to achieve firm foundations for bringing about steady economic growth in practising economic reforms for increasing its financial resources and for improving economic and social conditions of the people. Firm foundations have been gained for economic development as 1992-93 plan targets and objectives have been achieved and exceeded.

The 1993-94 plan targets have been laid down under the market-oriented economy of the state, based on domestic and foreign economic situation and in accordance with the directives to strengthen the firm foundations gained through the achievements of 1992-93 plan targets and objectives and to ensure development of national economy. It is necessary for the state, cooperative and private enterprises to take measures and make concerted efforts for mutual benefit in order to successfully implement the 1993-94 plan targets. The main targets for the year 1993-94 are as follows:

(1) The GDP, at constant prices of 1985, totaled Kyat 55,170 million in 1992-93 provisional figure and it has been targeted to achieve 58,388 million in the 1993-94 plan target and to achieve 5.8 percent growth on the provisional figure.

(2) For main productive sectors mentioned below to achieve, based on the 1992-93 provisional figure, the following growth percentage—agricultural sector 8.4 percent, livestock and fishery sector 5.9 percent, mining sector 5.6 percent and industrial sector 7.3 percent; in the forestry sector it has been planned to produce only the quantity left under the agreements made on extractions of teak and hardwood, main forestry products, including in border areas and net production value, at constant prices of 1985-86, totals Kyat 906 million and that is 6.8 percent less than the 1992-93 provisional figure; but timber extraction forces are to be mobilized and various steps to be taken to meet the target.

(3) There has been greater share of private sector in national economy thanks to supervision given and support provided under the prescribed laws and rules to enable not only the state but also cooperative and private sectors to contribute towards economic development. The ownership ratio for the year 1993-94 has been targeted in comparison with the 1992-93 provisional figure as follows:

(a) for the share of the state sector to be at most 21.4 percent from 22.5 percent;

(b) for the share of the cooperative sector to exceed 2.4 percent registered on the 1992-93 provisional figure and to make reforms in the cooperative principles;

(c) for the share of the private sector to be at least 76.2 percent from 75.1 percent.

(4) Based on the 1985-86 constant prices, it is to achieve the following targets in the 1993-94 financial year.

(a) for the per capita GDP to achieve Kyat 1,354 (Kyat 5,749 at current prices) and 3.9 percent growth against the previous year;

(b) for the per capita income to attain Kyat 1,272 (Kyat 5,476 at current prices) and 3.7 percent growth;

(c) for the per capita consumption to be Kyat 1,116 (K 5,042 at current prices) and increase by 6.7 percent;

(d) for the per worker GDP to achieve Kyat 3,459 (Kyat 14,698 at current prices) and 3.3 percent growth.

(5) It has been targeted, at current prices, to

(a) export Kyat 4,484 million in value;

(b) import Kyat 6,934 million in value; and

(c) attain Kyat 28,742 million gross investment.

(6) To create conditions for availability of internal and external financial resources, to scrutinize and encourage for making use of the acquired resources for investments in production.

(7) To explore means and give supervision to state economic enterprises to ensure greater efficiency and increase their contributions towards the state.

(8) To practise economy on all spheres in order to cut budget deficit and systematically collect taxes and revenues.

9) To take appropriate measures and explore means for striking a balance between the income and expenditure of foreign exchange.

The following steps will be taken to meet the 1993-94 plan targets.

(1) To give all-out support for greater and extensive contribution of state, cooperative and private sectors in national economy.

(2) To coordinate and take steps for raising efficiency and productivity of state, cooperative and private enterprises and for bring about mutual benefit.

(3) To increase investments by fully mobilizing domestic productive forces, allowing more foreign investment and the flow of technical knowhow and making use of them for the benefit of the nation to ensure rapid development of national economy.

(4) To put emphasis on agricultural sector and give all-out support for making available all the necessary inputs to ensure success of plans in agriculture, main economic sector of the state.

(5) To put priority to boosting output in paddy while at the same time taking measures to increase output of other crops which have good prospects on foreign markets and make endeavours to ensure self-sufficiency in edible oil and industrial crops.

(6) To encourage and provide support for not only the state sector but also the cooperatve and private sectors to take up fish culture and livestock farming in addition to their agricultural activities as well as to extend this business on both manageable and commercial scales so as to increase production in fishery and livestock sector.

(7) To place special emphasis on ensuring full production capacity of mills, factories and work establishments and to strive for cutting per unit cost.

(8) To choose industries that could surely manufacture a great quantity of products within a short period and make investments in them and also to take steps for building not only factories that can turn out processed products but also those that can manufacture semi-finished products.
(9) To manufacture as great a quantity of processed and high value added products as possible and to make efforts for improving the quality of exports with a viewing to increasing foreign exchange earnings.
(10) To expand service industry including tourism to increase foreign exchange earnings from services sector.
(11) To explore ways and means give and support for greater export from the private sector and to create conditions for smooth flow and convenience in different processes of exporting goods. [sentence as published]
(12) To control state expenditures during the financial year.
(13) To encourage organizations and individuals including those from rural areas to make use of banks to increase savings.
(14) To take measures, for making good use of the savings, by investing them in industries that will accelerate economic development.
(15) To review and assess, from time to time, progress on the implementation of plans to ensure inter- and intra-sectoral consistency to be able to give appropriate support.
(16) To take measures and make all-out efforts to ensure increased production and swift and regular flow of goods.

The realization of plan targets is an important national task. It is necessary for the entire people throughout the country to make concerted efforts for successfully implementing the plans laid down in the interests of the nation. In the same manner, organizations and departments concerned are to take necessary steps to contribute towards successful implementation of the plans.

Constant study is to be made on not only the implementations of state sector but also that of the cooperative and private sectors. Remedial measures are to be taken on shortcomings and weaknesses and successes and advantages are to be maintained. The successful implementation of plans will be conducive to strengthening economic foundations of the state. This will ensure greater economic growth which will in turn contribute towards development of the national economy.

'Terrorist Insurgents' Shell, Torch Villages

BK2004145593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents have been disrupting the peace and tranquillity by raiding villages, planting mines, and firing heavy artillery with intent to kill and maim innocent people. At 1300 on 12 April, about 40 Karen insurgents shelled Dankawtu village in Kawkareik Township. Altogether, nine villagers—three boys and four girls, aged 10 months to 12 years, along with one male and one female—were seriously wounded due to the shelling. The wounded villagers were sent to Kawkareik People's Hospital for treatment by responsible personnel.

It has been learned that our military columns are in pursuit of the fleeing insurgents.

Similarly, terrorist insurgents taking advantage of the military's halt in its offensive have been disrupting the peace and tranquillity by torturing and killing innocent people. Thus, at 0930 on 16 April about 15 Naga terrorist insurgents crossed the border into Myanmar [Burma], fired small arms and set fire to houses in Wetchu village, Tamu Township, where Kuki Chin nationals reside, and left for the country on the other side. A Kuki Chin national, U Ngan Ko Yang, aged 80 years, was killed while a village cooperative store and 21 dwellings were gutted leaving 110 villagers homeless.

It has been learned that our military columns are in pursuit of the fleeing insurgents. Defense services personnel headed by the regimental commander in cooperation with the Tamu Township Law and Order Restoration Council and departmental personnel are making the necessary arrangements for the resettlement of the fire victims giving them relief supplies and words of encouragement.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Prime Minister Backs Central Bank Despite Losses

BK2204114893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Apr 93 p 1

[By Sabri Said]

[Text] Shah Alam, Tues—There is no cause for action against Bank Negara [Central Bank] or its governor over the RM [Ringgit Malaysia] 9.3 billion drop in its other reserves account for 1992, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"I do not see any reason to take action against Bank Negara or expel (the governor)," he told reporters after officiating at Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd's [National Automobil Industry Limited] research and development building here.

Dr. Mahathir said the issue was publicised by certain parties who wanted to give the impression that Malaysia did not know how to manage its funds.

As explained by Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein yesterday, Dr. Mahathir said, a substantial portion of the so-called losses was only book losses and that they were incurred as a result of the appreciation of the ringgit due to the strong economy.

"This is something that we have to face," he said, adding that Malaysia would have to devalue the ringgit if it wanted to have a large reserves account.

Dr. Mahathir said Bank Negara had the capacity to deal in foreign exchange even though not all central banks in the world were involved in such activities.

"We have a lot of reserves...enough to buy food (for the nation) for seven months."

Bank Governor Explains Losses

BK2204102693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—A strong ringgit brings about a loss in reserves, Bank Negara [Central Bank] Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein said today, explaining the fall in the other reserves accounts of the Central Bank for 1992. The other accounts comprise the exchange rate fluctuation reserve, the investment fluctuation reserve, the insurance reserve, and the contingency reserve.

Besides the strong ringgit, accounting principles, the high cost of fighting inflation and the sharp value changes of reserve currencies during the year have accounted for most of the 9.3- billion-ringgit fall.

"A significant part reflected book losses," Jaffar said in a statement.

He said that where the Central Bank had lost, the government and the private sector gained in terms of a smaller external debt burden, higher purchasing power overseas and wealth in the hands of Malaysians.

Jaffar said he would have to "show his hand to the market" in order to explain the bank's foreign exchange business. But that would mean revealing to the market what the bank had done or what its commitments were.

"There should be no problem disclosing such information if the bank is no longer in the foreign exchange business. But we still are, although the presence is far less significant than commentators have placed us."

Jaffar said the stronger ringgit against the U.S. dollar would be reflected in the fall of the ringgit value of the bank's international reserves of gold and foreign exchange. This would translate into a loss in its accounts since its books are recorded in ringgit.

"This is an accounting principle. We will have to live with it."

He said such losses could get larger as more reserves were added to the stock or shifted to different currencies to trap higher yield or to protect their external value at exchange rates that were weaker than the closing rates at the end of 1991.

This arose because the accounts only disclosed year-end rates and additions to stocks or changes in composition during the year were often wrongly assumed to have been recorded at the opening rates in the absence of detailed information. [passage omitted]

Polish Deputy Premier Visits, Seeks Investment

BK2204122593 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0818 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Visiting Polish Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski said Thursday his country and Malaysia could become gateways for their goods to penetrate markets in each other's region. Calling on Malaysian businessmen to establish joint ventures in Poland, he said it could open a big and attractive market in Europe.

Potential areas for joint ventures included the production of oil and fats, textile industries, tourism and the shipyard industry, he told a press conference here. Poland is an open country, ready to invite anyone who wants to invest, cooperate with us and share with us the profits, he said. Apart from having a stabilised market economy, Poland had no labour problems, he said.

Goryszewski, who is here for a two-day visit, said Poland was keen to expand trade ties with Malaysia and this was reflected by the numerous business people representing large Polish enterprises in his delegation. They included the shipyard, transport, defence and pharmaceutical industries.

From his discussions with Malaysian leaders, Goryszewski said Poland and Malaysia shared the view that political and cultural cooperation were the foundations for peace. Peace is equally necessary in Europe as well as in Asia, he said through an interpreter. He said both countries were equally interested in enhancing global peace and this could be seen with the participation of Poland and Malaysia in the United Nations peacekeeping operations in a number of countries, including Cambodia.

Official Signs Investment Guarantee

BK2204090493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0356 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Poland became the 29th country to sign an investment guarantee agreement with Malaysia. The agreement for the promotion and protection of investments was signed by Poland's secretary of state in the central planning office, Halina Wasilewska, and the Malaysian minister of international trade and industry, Rafidah Aziz, Thursday.

The signing, which took place at MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry], was witnessed by Poland's Deputy Prime Minister Henryk Goryszewski. Rafidah said the conclusion of the agreement demonstrated the desire of both governments to broaden and deepen economic and industrial co-operation on a long term basis. It was also to create favourable conditions for investments by Polish investors in Malaysia and vice versa, she added.

Total trade between Poland and Malaysia was small and amounted to only U.S. $33 million and accounted for 0.04 percent of Malaysia's total trade last year. Last year, Malaysia exported U.S.$6.9 million worth of products to Poland and imported about U.S.$26.1 million worth of goods.

Tokyo Official Cites Need for U.S. Military Presence

BK2204124593 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0727 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 22 (Oana-Bernama)—A United States military presence in the Asia-Pacific region is still essential as a stabilizer despite the end of the cold war, Japanese Assistant Defence Minister A. Hayoshi said Thursday.

Only the United States was capable of playing such a role, he told reporters after calling on Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Razak at his office here. Japan is making every effort to keep the U.S. military presence in the region under the Japan/U.S. Security Agreement, he said.

Hayoshi said although it was anticipated that Washington should cut down the size of its military in the region, America should maintain its commitment and the current level of military power. In his discussions with Najib, Hayoshi said he exchanged views on the current situation in Cambodia and explained Japan's on-going defence build-up.

Although both Malaysia and Japan anticipated the current situation in Cambodia to be difficult, countries participating in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should work together under the U.N. banner, he added. Should there be any other development on the fate of UNTAC, it must be a U.N. decision and countries participating should not act unilaterally, he said when commenting on news reports about the possible withdrawal of Australian troops from UNTAC. Hayoshi said the defence build-up by Japan should not be seen as a threat to other nations. It was for self defence as Japan needed a strong military to protect its sovereignty, he added.

Minister Calls for Restructuring UNSC

BK2204103093 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Mon.—Malaysia wants the United Nation's Security Council [UNSC] to be restructured to do away with the power to veto enjoyed by its five permanent members.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was not right that when the majority took a stand on a certain issue, any one country could just veto it. He said as a world body the UN could not just listen to one country.

Abullah conveyed Malaysia's stand on the matter to the president of the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly, Mr Stoyan Ganev, today.

Speaking to reporters after launching the translated versions of two Australian books entitled My Place and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, today, Abdullah said:

"Maybe it is time that the UN starts thinking of introducing a new mechanism that can eliminate the vetoing power now enjoyed by a few countries. I also told Ganev that the membership of the Security Council should be expanded to enable more countries to be members. In fact, some of the countries are more qualified to be in the council than its current permanent members."

(The books were translated into Bahasa Malaysia by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka [Language and Literary Council] with the cooperation of the Australian High Commission here).

Abdullah said as vice-chairman of the organising committee for the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations, Malaysia would try to get across the message that at that age, the world body as a whole needed to be restructured.

He added that following the latest developments where the UN had been unable to implement various resolutions, especially with regard to Kampuchea and Bosnia, something had to be done to redeem its credibility. The failure to implement resolutions agreed to by the members is a weakness that must be overcome if the body is to be effective as the world's peacekeeper.

Earlier, speaking to reporters after meeting Ganev at his office, Abdullah said Malaysia wanted the world body to assume a more effective role in the development of Third World countries. He said the country felt the UN needed to give emphasis to development efforts besides playing its traditional political role. He said Malaysia had requested that this aspect be incorporated into the restructuring of the world body.

The Foreign Minister also raised the need to ensure the safety of UN peacekeeping forces as a result of the Cambodian experience.

Abdullah said this was important as the UN's peacekeeping duties were expected to expand.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Asks U.S. Not To Interfere in Elections

BK2204162693 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Speech by Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, at the inauguration of a bridge in Kandal Province on 2 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last night, the American radio station—maybe the American radio is afraid [words indistinct]. The other day an American diplomat told me: Your Excellency, it has been said that the United States supports various parties that oppose Phnom Penh and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]. Washington has asked me to clearly inform Your Excellency that the United States does not support any party. The United States is neutral. This is what the American said. This was said to me the other day. I am faithfully relating this.

I said: I hope that Your Excellency remains neutral and does not support any party and does not oppose any party because we are holding elections democratically with political neutrality. However, this morning the American radio station launched quite an attack against us. A few days ago it carried commentaries to influence the election. I would like to appeal to the United States not to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs. Allow the Cambodian people to decide their destiny themselves. This morning the American radio cited UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials as saying that this evening, at 1530, I will meet with UNTAC Chief Akashi. [passage omitted]

Paris Accord Signatory States Issue Statement

OW2304110193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 23 KYODO—The following is the full text of a joint statement on Cambodia, issued Friday by 18 countries that signed the 1991 Paris peace accords.

Statement on Cambodia

At the initiative of the co-chairmen of the Paris conference on Cambodia, the signatory states of the agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict declare their firm determination to support the electoral process under way in that country. In particular, they support unreservedly the decision of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia that the election shall be held on May 23-27, 1993. They call on UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to continue to make every effort to create and maintain a neutral political environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections, and support UNTAC's endeavors in this respect. For this purpose, the signatory states pledge their full support to the special representative of the secretary general, Yasushi Akashi, in implementing the Paris agreements, in cooperation with the SNC. They associate themselves with Resolution 810 as well as other relevant Security Council resolutions.

The signatory states of the Paris agreements vigorously condemn all acts of violence committed on political or ethnic grounds whoever the perpetrators and the victims may be. In particular, they express their indignation at the cowardly assassinations of civilian and military personnel of UNTAC who came to Cambodia on a mission of peace. They demand that all Cambodian parties take measures necessary to end all acts of violence and to ensure particularly the safety of all U.N. civilian and military personnel.

They call upon all Cambodian parties to abide by their commitment under the Paris agreements to respect the results of the elections provided they are certified free and fair by the United Nations. They express their readiness to support fully the Constituent Assembly and the process of drawing up the constitution and establishing a new government for all Cambodia.

The signatory states of the Paris agreements express their support for and confidence in his Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, for his crucial role in carrying out the peace process and in promoting national reconciliation. They pledge their full support for the determination of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the people of Cambodia to achieve a comprehensive political settlement and to proceed with the election. They also support fully the vital role of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the people of Cambodia in securing the assistance and active engagement of the international community in postelection reconstruction and peacebuilding in Cambodia.

Finally, the signatory states reiterate their full commitment to implement the Paris agreements.

FUNCINPEC Office in Chikreng District Attacked

BK2304025693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] According to a report from Chikreng District in Siem Reap Province, on the afternoon of 19 April a group of soldiers from the 4th division of the puppets in the province, backed by tanks and personnel carriers, surrounded and raided the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] office in the district. The puppet soldiers sprayed the office with machine-gun fire and completely destroyed the party's emblem.

It was also reported that the cruel puppet soldiers hit a FUNCINPEC member with the butt of a rifle until the latter became unconscious on the site. It is not yet known whether the victim is still alive or dead.

This is the campaign conducted by the Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] to openly suppress the FUNCINPEC party everywhere across the country, including Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takeo, Kampot, and Kompong Speu Provinces. At present, members of the FUNCINPEC and Buddhist Liberal Democratic parties are being cracked down on by the Yuon and puppets [words indistinct]. The reason for the Yuon and puppets behaving so insolently is that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has a strategy of preserving the Yuon and puppets. The puppets have openly declared that whether other political parties win less or more votes, those parties will lose in any case. Alas, this is what they call the democratic and free election of Akashi and the alliances in and outside UNTAC. Anyway, those daring get involved will become caught and dead no matter what.

21 Apr SNC Working Session Reported

BK2204134193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 93

["Report on the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council"]

[Text] On 21 April, a working meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] was held at the headquarters of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in Phnom Penh under the chairmanship of His Excellency Yasushi Akashi without the presence of the Khmer Rouge.

Akashi reported on various aspects of the election campaign in the past period by stressing that nearly 5 million Cambodian people have registered for the election; 20 political parties have supported the election and pledged to respect the result. The UN Security Council also supports the election. Therefore, the election in Cambodia will be held as planned without delay despite one party's opposition.

Akashi added that UNTAC will cooperate with (?the existing authority in Cambodia) to hold the election and take necessary measures to prevent political [words indistinct] unfounded accusation by Son Sann and Ieng Muli, the State of Cambodia side has proposed that Akashi send UNTAC officials to examine and investigate evidence and witnesses that the SOC has at its disposal, in particular the few generals of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, who are waiting to willingly and happily provide answers and clarification.

The second item of the agenda [words indistinct] seminar on Cambodia's future constitition [words indistinct] a consultative committee [words indistinct] Cambodia's constitution and submit to the constituent assembly resulting from the upcoming elections for consideration and adoption.

The next working session of the SNC will be on 29 April in Phnom Penh; the plenary meeting will be held on 6 May under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman.

Hun Sen Speaks to Prey Veng Voters 12 Apr

BK2004101593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Hun Sen at ceremony to inaugurate a hospital in Prey Veng Province at 12 April—recorded]

[Text] First of all, I would like to [passage indistinct]. Today, I am very happy to meet [words indistinct]. I am very moved to be loved and regarded by all grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, and aunts as your own son, grandchild, and nephew,. This is a source of encouragement for me to further fulfill my historic mission for the survival of our nation and people. I will never forget and would like to thank all venerable monks and compatriots for supporting the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the government, and especially myself, thus enabling me to achieve my historic tasks for the nation and people in the past. [words indistinct] on behalf of the CPP, whose symbol is a Tevoda [supernatural being] tossing flowers, I would like to extend best wishes to you. May the angels of the year of the rooster, B.E. 2537, bring you success, longevity, a fair complexion, happiness, health, and wisdom.

On this occasion, I will not forget to address our compatriots in Prey Veng Province, one of the provinces which suffered the greatest destruction. (?Speaking about) the five-year war from 1970 to 1975, particularly during the years 1975-1979, Prey Veng was one of the provinces which suffered the most losses in terms of lives, labor force, and other means of (?production). However, during the past 14 years, Prey Veng was one of the provinces which has developed remarkably. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all sons and daughters and compatriots in Prey Veng Province who have turned this barren and sorrowful land into a happy land in which to live safely. I just inaugurated a new achievement, a maternity building, constructed by Mrs. Sin Song.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Sin Song and his wife, as well as all generous persons, gentlemen, and ladies who have made great contributions to building various installations, including communication lines linking one district with another and one village with another. We will soon inaugurate a (?road) linking Peareang District (?in Prey Veng Province) with Khsach Kandal District of Kandal Province. All these achievements have healed the wounds left behind by the Pol Pot regime. This is why I have not forgotten to thank all the generous persons and our citizens in Prey Veng Province for their past achievements.

On this occasion, I would also like to raise some issues concerning the future situation in our country. [passage indistinct]. The CPP has never considered itself a Tevoda, but it has adopted for its emblem a Tevoda tossing flowers. This is done in accordance with the call we made between 1977 and 1979 on Tevoda [words indistinct]. Earlier, Tevoda helped us, now we should help Tevoda so he will help us again in the future. This is fairly correct. We have to heed Lord Buddha's advice that we should never forget [words indistinct]. The CPP has never considered itself a Tevoda or parents of the people and nation. However, I would like to recall that in the most difficult times, there was no political party that dared show its face to help the Cambodian people. It was the CPP, represented by the Tevoda, only that helped the people. It has helped the people to survive so far, as the compatriots, especially the people in Prey Veng Province who died in great numbers and suffered the most losses, have already known. This province has continued to survive and exist just as the other provinces throughout the country. [words indistinct] the party will continue its cause. The party will (?not stagger) in whatsoever situation, and it will remain united with the Cambodian nation and people.

Although myself, Mr. Heng Samrin, Mr. Chea Sim, or General Sin Song are not yet very old, we have [words indistinct]. Being a prime minister, we should care about the people's livelihood [words indistinct]. If I, as a prime minister, do not think about the country's progress and the people's happiness and sorrow, it is likely that we [words indistinct]. Our country, which is placed between war and peace, has faced countless difficulties left behind by the genocidal Pol Pot regime So if a decision is made (?carelessly), it will destroy the people's lives and damage the country's interests. Therefore, although myself and Mr. Heng Samrin and Mr. Chea Sim are a little bit tired, we, due to the country's situation—the older as well as the younger—have agreed to continue our endeavor.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to swear in front of the Buddhist monks and people that I will make all manner of sacrifices and do whatever I can to prosper the country and the people's lives in the future.

Revered Buddhist monks and beloved compatriots, I have given a number of statements during the past few days on the country's political issues and the CPP policy. So I will not again raise some issues [words indistinct]. However, I cannot avoid others, and I want to continue discussing them. This is because the statement that I make here will be broadcast on radio and television from Phnom Penh for our fellow countrymen in other areas. I am very happy to meet uncles, grandmothers, and grandfathers after a trip of (?more than one hour). The uncles, grandmothers, and grandfathers just listened to my statement last night and now they have seen me in person. A lot of uncles, grandmothers, and grandfathers have listened to the speeches I made in Vihear Suor and Kompong Cham and the one in Suong-Tbong Khmum yesterday. Now I am in Prey Veng. But starting from today, I will postpone my statements to allow the people to enjoy dancing and playing folk games. I do not want to disturb you during new year celebrations.

Yesterday I was accompanied by the Kompong Cham provincial officials from O Reang Euv District to Prey Veng Province's border. Shortly after I got out of the car at the border, dancing groups rushed to see me. I asked them when they started dancing. They said they started last night and that they will continue to dance deep into the night. Knowing that you come, they added, we rush to see you. There were four dancing spots along the road. I think that after this meeting, a number of youngsters will not go straight home. They will continue to dance along the road. You can dance as much as you like; this is the regime of the State of Cambodia. We can dance everywhere. This is better than being always on holiday in the rice fields under the polpotist regime. Now they want to lead us back to that regime. However, as long as the CPP still exists and as long as Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and I, as well as Sing Song and other persons sitting here are still alive, the people will never be forced to do that again. It is absolutely impossible. Now, I would like to talk about some issues concerning the country's situation and the party's political program. I will not talk about a number of issues, but I cannot avoid raising others.

At first, I would like to talk about one issue concerning some political parties and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. This issue is relative to one of the responsibilities of the incumbent administration and cooperation between the administration and UNTAC in the election campaign. I already talked about this in Suong-Tbong Khmum yesterday. It has been five or six days since the election campaign started on 7 April. During that period of time, I have been [words indistinct] and also disappointed. Anyway, the disappointment has not yet become burning. It is still possible to soothe it if a number of political parties (?show their sincerity). So what is the problem? Some political parties have put up posters, photographs, and notices. This has created problems in Phnom Penh and Kompong Cham as well as many incidents here in Prey Veng Province.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to call on all political parties to respect the prescribed electoral law and the regulations governing the election campaign. The posters, photographs, and notices can be affixed in the UNTAC-arranged areas in public places. But they cannot be put up at private houses and properties without authorization from the owners. I would like to again and again call on the political parties [words indistinct]. A dispute has occurred in this province because posters, photographs, and notices were glued on the walls of the people's houses [words indistinct]. If they keep doing that, the administration in place cannot be held responsible. UNTAC should tell the political parties about this matter. [passage indistinct]. A number of political parties are violating the rights of the citizens. They want to amass votes, but they abuse the people. I really don't know what this means. However, I wish to again and again call on them to clearly understand this problem; otherwise [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] They act as if they have no proper places to affix the posters. [passage indistinct] They are requested not to stick the posters on the walls of the people's houses without the owners' permission. They should not keep doing that. The owners can even tear off the posters put up by the ruling CPP because this is their right.

I worry that violence might occur. [passage indistinct] (?I would like to thank) a fourth-year student at the Phnom Penh University's Literature Faculty; Prum Tha, Professor teaching English at [words indistinct]; and Mrs. Lim Vanna, deputy director of Chaktomuk High School for having expressed their concern about violence that could occur during the election campaign. I worry just as they do. They have expressed their worries differently, but the anxieties have three common points: violence [words indistinct], economic sabotage, and the massacre of ethnic Vietnamese that have caused panic. I think that our people, students, and teachers have appropriately expressed their concern and anxiety about these problems. The problems are part of the existing administration's responsibility and the responsibility of UNTAC.

[Passage indistinct] In recent months, when [words indistinct] UNTAC complained about us. Now they are putting up papers on tamarind trees, on wells, at monasteries' meeting halls, along the stretch of trail of about 20 km. [passage indistinct] Even for the CPP, it has never dared affix posters, photographs, and notices in this manner. The posters could also be torn and used by kids guarding cows or buffaloes as their cigarette papers [words indistinct]. When their posters disappear, those parties complain to UNTAC that the administration in place has not protected or has torn off the posters. If they keep doing so, the administration will certainly die or will be victimized by their complaints. So I wish to warn UNTAC to stop doing that. I am a human being; I cannot listen to everything it told me. I need to be responsible to my people and my administration as well. UNTAC cannot just say anything it wants. UNTAC officials everywhere should also understand this problem. If they fear that we are incapable, they should send more UNTAC members from the United Nations to insure the protection themselves.

I do not have enough policemen. What can the police do? They are asked to provide protection at rallies and meetings, to protect the people from being attacked by the Khmer Rouge and the FUNCINPEC, ally of the Khmer Rouge, which has sent their men to lob grenades in cities to kill the people and burn their houses [words indistinct]. They [FUNCINPEC members] are in collusion with the Khmer Rouge. Now, it is the New Year time. The police have to ensure security for the people, allowing the latter to enjoy traditional games and dancing. The People's Police Forces never have time to rest. But they cannot just stand under the tamarind tree everyday to protect the posters. We cannot do so. The other day I had a meeting with Akashi. After I presented a protest note to UNTAC [words indistinct]. I cannot do that. So UNTAC should understand that if it is capable, it should protect itself. It should not bother me. I would like to heartily thank UNTAC if it can do so.

Now they affix posters on every single tree [words indistinct]. We do not forbid them doing that, but how can we guard their posters? It is alright for them to put up posters everywhere, but they should not blame me later; they should not complain to UNTAC in Prey Veng [words indistinct]. On the issue of putting up posters, although they are told not to affix them on the walls of the people's houses, they still persist, saying: I do not glue them on your chest. You see, the matter has turned out like this. It is really hard. [passage indistinct] Please understand that political parties should not act in this manner. Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen have built the party for 14 years—actually, it is more than that. I and Sin Song created forces. Then I sent him to western and eastern Cambodia. After that, we also had meetings. We did not play games like children. Building a [word indistinct] political party is not like constructing pools or ponds, [words indistinct], or a place for distributing leaflets. It is not like that. They should make things simple and should not form a party aimed at creating trouble. They should try to achieve national reconciliation. With political parties established, they should not create obstacles to one another because of just their personal affairs. As I said in the past, we were accused of massacring a member of a party who fell from a moving motorbike and got himself killed. At the time, UNTAC angrily rejected the accusation, saying he was riding a motorbike and fell from it himself. The CPP did kill him.

When the exhaust of a car made a loud noise, we were also accused of shooting at them. It is very difficult for me. I cannot do anything. UNTAC should do it itself. A car with damaged exhaust made loud noises while travelling from Ta Khmau to Phnom Penh. No people living along that road complained about it, except for the FUNCINPEC party. It complained that its office was shot at. When we just examined the car with broken exhaust, we were also accused of shooting at them. I really don't understand this and cannot do anything. A person who is 100 times more capable than Hun Sen will still not be able to do anything; a person who is more capable than National Security General Sin Song will still not be able to do anything if they continue to act in this manner. I have repeatedly called on UNTAC not to listen to them and not to turn against Hun Sen.

Various political parties should behave themselves and should have some discipline and morals. They cannot just put up posters everywhere. Coming from somewhere, they behave like a lion outside a cage. They have boasted that they will win 100 percent because they are supported by everybody, including thieves [words indistinct]. Notably, Ranariddh has said: Our party is supported by everyone, including thieves. They can be with thieves, but not the CPP. However, today I would like to again appeal—I already made this appeal once in Kompong Cham—to FUNCINPEC thieves not to steal motorbikes or bicycles parking here. The thieves [words indistinct] and are lieutenants or captains. [words indistinct] I suspect that many motorbikes or bicycles will be stolen by those FUNCINPEC thieves today.

[Passage indistinct] On the celebration of the new year, I would like to call on officers and rank and file within the Khmer Rouge polpotist army who still have the slightest sense of patriotism to break loose from their chieftains and return to the national fold. If it is still impossible for them to flee now, then they are called upon not to carry out any action against the happiness of the people, who are watching video films or operettas at theaters, or are enjoying traditional games on the new year. They are asked not to destroy the nation. Please let the people enjoy the event.

I would also like to appeal to thieves staying with various political parties, especially the FUNCINPEC party, not to steal during this new year celebration. They should allow the people to enjoy riding their motorbikes with their wives and children. If the motorbikes are stolen, then the people cannot enjoy themselves. Everybody, including thieves, should celebrate the new year, but should not commit any vandalism today. [passage indistinct]

Those defending the people are not UNTAC, but the SOC. Moreover, now we should also protect UNTAC offices—without protection, the polpotists will certainly destroy them. We have to also protect UNTAC staff members—how many UNTAC staff (?have already been killed)? Akashi is becoming anxious.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would also like to call on all those still having the slightest sense of patriotisn and morality as Cambodians not to carry out destructive acts, including military activities, armed robberies, or other sinful actions. (?Lord Buddha) has prohibited such sins. So the people should be allowed to happily celebrate the new year.

Now I would like to talk a bit about an issue—I have already raised this point in many places, but now I want to explain about it again. I [words indistinct] if the CPP wins, what will our people receive as a result of the party's victory? As all of you already know, during its 14 victorious years, the CPP has allowed the people to survive, to rid themselves of the genocidal regime, and to accumulate fortunes for their families and society as a whole. Therefore, if the CPP wins, the genocidal regime can never return, never return. If the CPP wins, the people will not be deprived of their property and houses as it was between 1975 and 1978. The CPP vehemently pledges to protect the people's property. You do not need to ask: When you—Mr. Hun Sen, Mr. Chea Sim, Mr. Heng Samrin—win, can you prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime? You do not need to ask Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, or Sin Song this question because it was the CPP that toppled Pol Pot. It has been the CPP that has confronted the polpotist regime for 14 years. And at present, we continue to resist Pol Pot in order to protect the people. In the future, it will be the CPP that has the real resistence forces, that will steadfastly implement the policy against the return of the Pol Pot regime. It is no use asking: If the CPP wins, can you, Hun Sen, guarantee against the seizure of my house, my bicycles, my motorbikes, my watches, or my other belongings? You do not need to ask that question because it was the CPP [words indistinct]. We should remember two points: The Pol Pot regime can never return [words indistinct].

Right now on the road there, (?an old lady) asked me to prevent the Pol Pot regime's return. I told her that if you vote for us, Pol Pot can never come back. However, if I lose, if Chea Sim and the CPP lose, we will not be able to protect you because we will lose everything, including political power, military forces, police forces, and civilian administration. We will not be able to do anything. However, if we win, the regime can never return. We do not just talk, we will we will actually act. [passage indistinct]

While it is in power, if the party does not have a policy to improve the living conditions of the people, of each individual, then the people will be unable to own houses, bicycles, or motorbikes; they will be unable to send their children to schools or to worship in the Buddhist tradition [words indistinct]. So we should carefully study this issue.

There was a grandfather at [word indistinct] asking the people in his village: Who has made us rich? The people said we are rich because we work hard. That answer is very correct. No party has money to put in our pockets every day or every year. [passage indistinct] This is the correct answer. However, the grandfather gave a good answer, saying: In the Pol Pot regime, we also worked hard, but why did we have nothing? Now if we work hard, we will get rich. Before, even when we worked hard, we did not get anything. In Pol Pot's time, we worked harder than we do now [words indistinct]. We worked very hard, but what we got was only a bowl of rice soup. Now we still work hard all the same, but what we earn we will put it in our houses. So the CPP's fundamental policy is of vital importance because it concerns the country's survival and the people's prosperity. The CPP, although insulted—they never say a good word about the party; they are insulting the party from dawn to dusk nonstop every day. [passage indistinct] They should have political courage. If they see something wrong, they should say it is wrong, but if they see something right, then they should say it is right. The CPP has never refused to accept the mistakes it has committed. And if one of its officials has any fault, the wrongdoer will certainly be punished.

I would like to inform the audience and also answer the question of KAOH SANTEPHEAP newspaper as well as UNTAC about the shooting death of a student by a drunken SOC army officer in Battambang Province. Only three days after the incident, I ordered the defense minister and the prosecutor at the military court to arrest the culprit, regardless of his being an army officer. There is no such thing as immunity for him. If he is wrong, he should be punished accordingly. The CPP has never overlooked its faults, its wrongdoings. It has always strived to do whatever it can to amend itself. On the contrary, some political parties have never done that. And some people have never recognized their mistakes although they are wrong strategically or politically. The CPP is a party that calls a spade a spade and dares to accept responsibility. But some parties have no political courage to acknowledge the truth. Because if they were to accept the truth, they would have no motive to further oppose us. If Phnom Penh is said to be independent and prosperous [words indistinct]. They always repeat the same monotonous refrain that Phnom Penh is the Vietnamese puppet, Phnom Penh has a Vietnamese head and a Cambodian body, Phnom Penh is corrupt, and so on. All they can do is say those words.

After a reporter of KOAH SANTEPHEAP newspaper attended the ceremony to close the site II refugee camp, he reported that (?thousands) of logs were transported to Thailand from FUNCINPEC-controlled areas. So the prince [Ranariddh], where have you (?shipped those logs)? According to Lieutenant Chan Rat [a FUNCINPEC general who recently defected to Phnom Penh], the logs cost between 600 and 700 baht. Where is the money now? [passage indistinct] A video about the process of registering voters in the SOC-controlled region and in the areas controlled by FUNCINPEC or Son Sann's party presented by UNTAC on television has shown a big difference between the two regions. The video shows that they have not been able to even develop their small patch of land as they have boasted in the election campaign. I would like to make it clear that during the last few years, if those gentlemen had been able to establish high schools [words indistinct]. We have paid our teachers in Thmar Puok, Banteay Chhmar, [word indistinct] since 1989 although they were under the control of the other side. This proves that the opposition parties are (?never better than us). However, they have arrogantly behaved as an escaped lion all the time. They are very skillful at telling lies. They have ceaselessly insulted me. When they are asked about the motive of their insults, they always remain silent. I never know exactly what they are blaming me for. At a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Beijing, I told Son Sann: Your Excellency, please, advise me. But so far, he has never given me any advice at all.

Now they say that their members are all economic experts. But I would like to emphatically say that those persons are only experts in sabotaging the economy. Are that really experts? The other day, they printed a 500-riel bank note, and in a notice, they claim that the note can be used to buy a pair of oxen. Under the notice there was also mention that Son Sann is an economist. Actually, Son Sann is an ace at destroying the country's economy. During the last few weeks, the value of the riel currency was devalued and destroyed by the factions of the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, and Son Sann [words indistinct]. By the way, I would like to thank a group of students whose names appear in the newspaper I just read, professors at Wat Kaoh School, and the deputy director of Chaktomuk school for their call for restraint on economic sabotage. This issue is very clear and the people have understood it very well. Those wanting to ruin the economy and to strangle the SOC are the opposition parties. Before I never thought that they could commit such a base action. They want to win elections, but they are strangling the people. At an SNC meeting, I told them: If you, gentlemen, want to win the elections, you should never destroy the (?people). If you strangle Hun Sen, the people will suffer. For instance, we used to be able to buy 2 meters of fabric with 10,000 riels. But now with the devaluation, we can only buy 1 meter with that amount of money. That being the case, the people should not become angry with Hun Sen. They should be furious with Khieu Samphan, Ranariddh, and Son Sann instead. Please don't be fed up with Hun Sen. However, now the opposition parties are beginning to suffer the adverse consequences of their actions. They have done nothing, except for those base actions. For their power, they do not hesitate to destroy the interests of the people They use the people as their stepping stone to climb to power. [passage indistinct]

Taking this opportunity, I wish to answer Mrs. Lim Vanna, the deputy director of Chaktomuk high school. She asked: From now until the elections are held, who will pay the teachers? Will the teachers still be paid after the elections? And will the Phnom Penh government or a newly elected government pay them? Concerning those questions, I would like to inform the people nationwide that the salary before the elections has been and will be paid by the SOC. I believe that my deputy prime ministers do not lie to me. The salary for March has already been paid to government officials in order to enable them to celebrate the new year.

I don't think my deputies lie to me because I have already checked their reports in Kompong Cham Province [words indistinct]. However, the salary for April has not yet been paid. How can we pay before the end of the month? We need to wait until the end of the month, anyway. And if asked whether the April salary will be paid, I will say yes. But if it is a little bit late, please do not complain, because the transportation of money can sometimes cause the delay [words indistinct]. I think there will be no problem with this issue.

Asked whether the Phnom Penh government or the newly elected government will pay after the elections, I would like to inform the audience as well as Mrs. Lim Vanna that if the CPP wins—the party has already made this promise—it will guarantee against all kinds of property seizures: Everything owned by the people will be protected. Also the CPP guarantees that the salary of teachers, medical staff, and other officials will certainly be paid by the SOC. This is because a new government can only be formed three months after the elections. The legislative elections will be held from 23 to 28 May, so a new government can only be formed on 28 August. No new government will exist in May, June, July, and August. Therefore, it will be the Hun Sen government that will pay in April, May, June, July, and August. Nobody will do this except for the SOC governement.

However, if I lose, not only will the salary not be paid, but also everything will vanish. If I lose, there will certainly be panic and Pol Pot will eventually come back. The CPP clearly understands this problem. A new government will be able to pay only from September. As such, it is the old administration, meaning the Hun Sen government, that will still pay in May, June, July, and August. Whenever a new government is not yet in office, I always remain a prime minister of the old government. However, if we win and if I am still needed as prime minister, then I will be happy to accept that position. We will continue to have a treasury and money and will also collect taxes. Nevertheless, if they win, it will be another matter.

In order to continue receiving salaries, what should we do? We should take actions against terrorist acts and economic sabotage created by various political parties. We should also oppose Son Sann and Ranariddh, who have colluded with the Khmer Rouge in destroying the value of the riel currency. I would like to make it clear that nobody will have dollars to pay the salaries. As His Excellency Keat Chhon, my adviser and a committee chairman, has already said on television, the circulation of dollars [words indistinct]. And I emphatically said at an SNC meeting that the UNTAC presence in Cambodia has at least contributed to encouraging the people to devalue the riel currency. This is because UNTAC personnel have spent the dollars at markets. No country in the world allows such a practice. Therefore, I would like to reaffirm that the riel bank notes still have their values. We have to continue using the bills while struggling to reclaim and protect their value. As I just said, the riel bank notes with one, five, 10, 20, or 50 [words indistinct] denomination still have their value and continue to be our (?legal tender). [passage indistinct] They are still valuable. I would like to make it clear that those claiming that the riel currency is no longer acceptable are polpotists. UNTAC has never dared say that the bills are worthless. Instead, it has helped increase the riel value. Even when Namibia was still a colony of South Africa, South Africa exchanged dollars for the Namibian currency. However, it is very strange that the Cambodians have refused to exchange the dollars for the riel bank notes and have continued to use the dollars everywhere throughout the markets. This is what they call a coincidence [words indistinct].

There is no problem. Although it is late, it is sure to be dusbursed. I am not as daring as other party leaders. Let me talk here a little about the other party leaders. In various parties, just when they were set up, they promised to give as much as 50, 100, 200, and even 700 dollars per month to anyone who joined them. The CPP dares not do such a thing. Even without promising anything, we are already hard pressed. Maybe after the elections we will dare to do it, for at that time the aid that FUNCINPEC, Ranarridh, Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge are now blocking will be available. When I win they will not be allowed to block it. The World Bank will thus assist us and we will use the aid to [words indistinct] and the health sector. Then I think maybe we will be able to add some little things, but I dare not promise everything. The question is not in raising the salaries. The important thing is whether or not we can earn enough money and if we cannot, we will have to print more money and dump it into the marketplace and when this happens, it will have an inflationary effect. This is not an easy problem to solve.

So, other parties have promised to give 100, 200, or 300 dollars. But no one has received that money yet. Maybe no one will ever get it. My reckoning is that he will have to wait until the next life. Some parties have even said that the money will be paid after the elections. If those parties lose, how can they settle it? Now, the members of some parties have been asked to use their money first, to allow their houses to be used as offices first, hoping they will be paid back later. [passage indistinct] they have promised at least hundreds of dollars or positions as provincial or district governors or ranks as captains or colonels in remuneration. Let me tell you a joke with some meaning. I do not want to mention the name of the party involved. Let us just call it a party. This party approached the abbot of a monastery and met with the faithful and monks there. The party workers then urged them to join their party and promised to give a car to the abbot and build a eating hall and a temple for the monastery. The faithful said that they should give the car and build the eating hall and temple first and they will join. They then asked the party workers point blank: Sons, you are riding bikes and you said you want to give the abbot a car. Can we believe you? If you drive a car and promise to give us a motorcycle or a bike, then it would be more believable.

They are riding bikes and promise to give others a car! I cannot understand that.

Another party which colludes with the Khmer Rouge—you know which party works with the Khmer Rouge; you cannot be wrong if you say it is FUNCINPEC—so, that party went on a campaign trip to Banghaeu Khleng in Kandal and approached a group of elders who were building a cart. One of the party workers said: Uncle, if you vote for FUNCINPEC the party will build you three tile-roofed houses per family when it wins. The man retorted: Son, you are so young. How can you build three tile-roofed houses for me?

So the story goes. He is so young and he himself does not even own a house yet, but he has promised to give three tile-roofed houses to others.

Some parties have promised to give voters 500 dollars while they themselves do not even have a dollar. That is why there are now so many dollar-minded people all over Cambodia. Many have said that they have joined this or that party just for the dollar values that were promised and now since no dollars have been delivered they have deserted the party. And the CPP has been accused of pressuring the people to leave parties. No one has done that. It is because these parties themselves lied to and duped their own members that they have left the parties.

As far as ranks are concerned, militarily speaking there are now soldiers from sub-lieutenants up to generals all over the place. You can find silver and golden stars virtually everywhere. In the civilian sector, there are so many people promised to be district governors on up. If everybody is at least a district governor, who then will be the ordinary people? So many people have been promoted that there are frequent disputes and quarrels among them. And we get a headache just thinking about it. A certain party has multiple governors designated for the same district. For example, it already has five governors of Peareang District, Prey Veng Province. To win their allegiance, it bestows the title of district governor gratuitously to recruits from Site II [words indistinct] and even from America and France. This is why I always joke that when they win they will have to organize a boxing, sword, and spear fighting contest: The winner will be the district governor. Now they already start quarreling with one another over who is the real district or provincial governor. When they win the elections they will surely throw grenades at one another and the dispute will never end.

As for the CPP, we dare not make any such promises to our nearly 3 million party members. The people have joined this party because it is their own party, traveling with them and together contributing to the common progress. Without the people's support, we cannot achieve what we have achieved. Our party is a people's party. The people who join our party do not demand rewards in return. They want to contribute to national reconstruction. We cannot give ranks to our 3 million members. What happens if 3 million people all become heads of communes, districts, and provinces? We do not dare promise to raise the salaries. When the circumstances and conditions are right, we will do it. If we make promises, we will have to keep them [words indistinct].

The little promise I can make is that the salaries will be delivered. They may be a bit late in coming, but the existing salaries will be disbursed. The employees will get their salaries during the time before the election and after it until there is a new government. And if I win and thereby will be the one to form the new government, the salaries will continue to be distributed. But if other parties win, I dare not make any guarantee because I may be the first to be hacked. They have already threatened to hack me. They have said that they will not let Hun Sen live. I have allowed them to come in for the sake of national reconciliation, but they have said Hun Sen will be the first to go.

[Passage indistinct] now they are being envious toward us. They said that each time the Phnom Penh people held a campaign rally, 20,000 to 50,000 people would turn up to listen. I cannot help that. When they made a stump appearance, 70 people turned up, sometimes only seven or 10. When the Phnom Penh people held a campaign rally, 20,000 to 50,000 persons turned up. What can I do? What can I do if you fail to grasp the people's attention? Do not blame me for that. [passage indistinct] when you arrived here you wanted to come closer to get a better look at me. Thank you for that.

And they keep insulting only Hun Sen [words indistinct] and they keep calling me one-eyed Jack. This is despicable. As for Ranariddh, he is the less considerate. He keeps calling me names, insulting me as blind, deaf, and dumb. [words indistinct] and I am not a nobody. Moreover, it is not a party of Hun Sen alone. It belongs to a lot of other people. He should be more considerate and civilized.

[Passage indistinct] the compatriots have already heard my statement in Vihear Suor. I beg your pardon, other parties, you should understand that if you tend to get angry do not play, if you play do not get angry. The elder prince or Big Brother in Chinese [Ranariddh] has kept insulting me for a year now, and I have not hit back. Today, I am not going to insult him back; I only want to pick up my repartee. No, I am not going to insult him. But when I call him names back he must not get mad [passage indistinct]. You have insulted others, when others respond, do not get angry.

[Passage indistinct] a newspaper in Long Beach wrote that maybe Ranariddh and Son Sann will not recognize the election results. [words indistinct] in the newspaper published in Long Beach, the United States. If you are a sportsman, you should accept the results whether you win or lose. Do not accuse the elections of being rigged when you lose. Allow me to inform you that the former French foreign minister [words indistinct] was riding in a car with me in Siem Reap. He said that he was worried a number of parties would reject the results of the elections. I told him that I am not going to reject them. Why? Because UNTAC is the one that has organized the elections, supervises them, counts the ballots, and announces the results. If you do not recognize the election results, you are against the United Nations [words indistinct]. More important, is UNTAC fair or unfair? UNTAC is the one that will announce the results. When UNTAC announces the results and you reject them, then it will be your business. I have nothing to do with that. You have brought the midwife to deliver the child. If you do not recognize the baby and throw it away, then it is your problem, not mine. You will have to answer to 140 countries and the big powers. Personally, I do not care. However, let me tell you this, if you are a true sportsman you should accept the results, win or lose. We are not the one who organizes the elections. UNTAC is. If you were sincere when you signed the Paris agreement, then you must accept the election results.

And that goes especially for Mr. Son Sann who on behalf of the three factions said that he fully supported the Paris accord but is now having second thoughts.

Allow me to tell you this: The issue of the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia is not a recent one. This problem has been here for hundreds of years. How many Vietnamese were there in Peam Chor of Prey Veng in the past and how many Vietnamese are there at present? How many Vietnamese were there on the rubber plantations of Kompong Cham in the past and how many of them are there now? [Words indistinct] about 35,000 and now there are [words indistinct]. Some of them have been born in Cambodia going back for generations. But in the Pol Pot time, ethnic Khmers fled to Vietnam, Chinese fled to Vietnam, and Muslims fled to Vietnam. Many Chinese as well as Vietnamese fled back to Vietnam. After liberation all of them returned together. What can we do about that? The elections are organized by UNTAC. You, the members of various parties, should lodge a protest now if you have anything to complain about. During the elections you cannot protest. You are here and you can see that the Vietnamese are not allowed to register. The electoral law stipulates that citizens of both sexes who were born in Cambodia from parents born in Cambodia are allowed to vote. If the parents were not born in Cambodia, then they are not allowed to vote. So, if they seek to create trouble after the elections, then they are not true sportsmen.

Some people have misunderstood us, charging that if FUNCINPEC or this or that party wins, then the CPP will not hand over the power. That is not true. You can be ready to take over power. I will hand it over on a tray. I [words indistinct] the correct way and do not [word indistinct] the people. If the CPP loses, it will be the end. If the friends of Pol Pot win, Pol Pot will be back. So, this is an opportunity for us to make it clear. We must recognize the outcome of the elections. And now the Khmer Rouge are trying to undermine the elections.

Therefore, the people throughout the country must never [words indistinct]. You must exercise your right to vote. Those who have been forced away by the Khmer Rouge also have the right to vote. [passage indistinct] but they are eligible to vote. And there will be mobile elections between 23 to 28 May. We will therefore be able to vote. Even if the Khmer Rouge or their allies threaten, we will do what our hearts tell us to do and will fulfill our duty, that is, to cast our ballots. Do not be afraid of the threats of the polpotists and their allies. It will be an action for the nation.

Some parties know that they will never win but [words indistinct] to destroy the riel currency [words indistinct] causing the traders in the cities to close their shops [words indistinct]. This is a very despicable act. They undermine the riel currency, causing it to lose its values in an attempt to proceed from an economic problem to a political problem. Now, if the riel loses its valaue, who will suffer? And if [words indistinct] who will lose?

The party leaders [words indistinct]. So, the people should grasp this problem and overcome the obstacle created by the Khmer Rouge and their FUNCINPEC ally. [words indistinct] the political as well as socioeconomic situations in order to proceed with the elections, for this is the only chance for the Cambodian people to show their determination to make their political choice for Cambodia's future. This is what I want to tell the people, the compatriots throughout the country about.

On this occasion, I would also like to tell you, venerable Buddhist monks and compatriots, about the answer to the question made yesterday concerning the CPP's socioeconomic policy between here and the elections and after the elections in case the CPP wins. What will this party do? I have already enunciated the main points of our policy concerning the economic question. Now, I would like to continue [words indistinct]. It will not be too long but long enough to make the points clear.

There are four sectors that are the most important, priority in CPP policy, to Cambodia. Speaking of Cambodia alone, it needs virtually everything. However, if everything is a priority, then there is no priority at all. The CPP, however, gives priority to only four sectors: first, water, the question of finding water; second, roads and bridges; third, electricity; and fourth, education and training. These four sectors get priority treatment.

What is the water question? We focus mainly on the question of getting water for agricultural production and water for the people's consumption. This is an important question in CPP policy if it wins. To tackle this problem, we need time. We cannot do as some other parties that claim to be able to catch up with Japan in just one year. It is impossible. It requires considerable planning, material equipment, and manpower in order to advance. Thus, the water question remains a first priority for the CPP. We take agriculture as a priority for the stabilization of the people's livelihood, because the peasantry constitutes 80 percent of the population.

Coming second is the transport route sector. Transport routes for us does not mean only the major national routes and highways. We must pay attention to developing the route system in the rural areas as well in order to meet the needs of the people in production and traffic, the influx of cultural material, as well as the redistribution of the labor force.

On this occasion, I would like to praise the development of the rural route sector in Prey Veng Province. General Sin Song, his wife, and other charitable personalities have built many bridges and roads in Prey Veng Province.

Allow me to tell you this. The canal in front of us—what is its name? Ta Tan canal? Yes, Ta Tan canal under the plan since I first became prime minister was supposed to be dredged many times already. But nothing has been done because of a lack of funds or equipment. And rural transport routes, be it roads or waterways, are very important for our people. This canal is thus of great significance to us. It is a fishing ground as well as a source of water for irrigation and acts as a waterway. Our Mekong river, the Tonle Sap river, and a number of ponds and canals are now drying up, for nothing has been done to maintain them over the past 23 years. For this reason, we need to dredge a number of shallow places in our rivers and a number of ditches and canals to faciliate the traffic flow.

Unfortunately, the 62-million-dollar fund that the World Bank wanted to give Cambodia for agricultural, electric power, transport routes, and canal projects—I have already talked about this a few days ago and want to talk about it again so that the gods of the New Year will hear it clearly—has been blocked by the Khmer Rouge, Son Sann, and FUNCINPEC.

Nevertheless, we have our plans. Each province has its own plans. The problem is only in that [words indistinct]. That is the second issue.

The third issue is electricity. It is also an important matter for us. Now our people everywhere have televisions and radios, and everywhere electricity is needed. Although our current generating capacity is much higher than in the past, it is not yet sufficient. And if there is not enough electricity, then the agricultural development sector will experience difficulty. The industrial and handicraft development sector will also experience difficulty. And so will the tourism promotion sector, such as hotels and other services. For this reason, we must give priority to this question in the coming rehabilitation period. We will ask for aid to build the infrastructure in this sector.

The fourth sector is education. I would like to take this opportunity to express admiration at the education sector which during just 14 years has made such great strides in development. Before the war there were only 800,000 to 900,000 students. Now we have 1.8 million students. Before the war there were only a little more than 30,000 teachers. Now there are more than 70,000 teachers.

In order to develop a nation, we need what they call human resources. We can get these human resources only when we have a good education sector. We have already formulated an educational strategy within our party's platform. In the next 10 years, meaning between now and the year 2003, what will we give priority to? We will give priority to the following:

First, we will do everything possible in order to implement what we call the general education principle. In this connection, we have already announced the end of the campaign to eliminate illiteracy. However, do not forget that there may still be some illiterate people as we are now facing the danger of people forgetting how to read and write. A number of people have learned, but they may forget what they have learned. Therefore, the problem for us is to carry on between now and the 2000's the effort to provide good education at all educational levels.

Second, we will raise the quality of education. Now we really have a lot of [word indistinct] but their quality is not high enough. In the past, there were some problems concerning vocational training. We then allowed the private sector to open vocational schools. This morning, I talked to His Excellency Sin Song and Sin Song gave me the idea that we could use the school in Peam Chor. The high school in Peam Chhor is too spacious. Some parts of it have not been used at all. We may turn this place into a vocational training center for some agricultural specialities. This means that the children of the people of Prey Veng can learn agricultural techniques in Prey Veng.

Third, general education as well as vocational training must be closely linked to national development. We should target vocational training in a way that after graduating the students will not become unemployed. The vocational training should be geared to the needs of the country. We should know what our people want to develop. If we want to promote agriculture and modified industries, then we should target the training at the agricultural and modified industry fields. If we want to promote tourism, which is also an important sector, then we should aim the training at tourism. In this way, education and vocational training are linked to national development.

This is a priority in dealing with immediate as well as long-term problems. This is not a simple issue. It requires great dedication to solve. And between now and the elections and after the elections when we have a new government, in my opinion, any party and especially the CPP, whether I will remain prime minister or not, will have to tackle four urgent questions called the four conflicts in the present society. What are these conflicts? We are losing balance in four important sectors. I have often said that these are conflicts, but they are not blood-letting conflicts. We thus are losing balance in four sectors that we must work hard to stanch. We are losing balance between demand and supply.

I would like to tell you that our population increase is planned to be only 2.8 percent, but in reality, it amounts to nearly 3 percent. Therefore, the need for food, as well as all kinds of needs relating to population growth, is considerable. And our needs at present are unlike those in 1979-80. At that time, we did everything just to get enough to eat and sustain our lives. Now, it is different. The people demand only the finest material. The textile plants in Cambodia no longer know what to produce to please consumers. Even the grandmothers demand nylon material instead of cotton and many are wearing the best silk cloth. Our textile plants no longer know what to produce. Thus, there is an imbalance between demand and supply. It is an imbalance not in quantity but in quality. The people do not buy bikes produced by Cambodian plants. They prefer [words indistinct]. We Cambodians do not mind being poor as long as we have flashy furniture. The radios, if they are not Japanese Sony models, no one will buy them. The wristwatches most sought after are Swiss or Japanese made. We Cambodians are quite finicky. If we have to wear a wristwatch, we opt for the best. If we cannot get one, we would rather not wear anything at all. That is the problem. Thus, it is very important to solve this key conflict. We must find all ways in order to meet this demand with sufficient supply. The government before as well as that coming out of the elections must solve this problem. No one can avoid it.

Second, there is an imbalance between spending and income. Our spending is huge. I would like to inform you that the spending on education alone is considerable. There are more than 70,000 teachers. This number has greatly startled the World Bank and the International

Monetary Fund. It is rare to find a country of just 7, 8, or 9 million people with 1.8 million students and as many as 70,000 teachers. This is a rare phenomenon. As a result, our spending is huge in addition to salaries of other officials and functionaries and expenditures on various other sectors. This, therefore, constitutes another imbalance that calls for an urgent solution.

Another imbalance exists between imports and exports. We import many things from abroad while exporting little. Therefore, this government as well as the government after the elections must strive by all means not to allow the imbalance between import and export to become too large.

Fourth, there is an imbalance between the merchandise and the currency. I would like to inform you that this imbalance is called inflation. Inflation in our country is not the result of a common economic woe. It partly results from the overprinting of paper currency. But lately this inflation has come from the sabotage by the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, and Son Sann who have been seeking to cause confusion through economic manipulation.

I only make a sketchy expose. It is now very hot and there is not much shade. I do not want to deliberate on that point because it is very hot now. I think I am going to end this speech here. But before I conclude, allow me to say 10 or 20 more words just in case you might blame me for failing to warn you about the danger. You might say: A few days ago I met Hun Sen and he did not talk about it [words indistinct].

I only want to give you this reminder: When you hear a distant thunder, do no rush in to empty the water jar, for you cannot be certain yet that there will be rain. Thunder is not a sure precursor of rain. When other parties promise that they will do this and that, do not believe them right away. We have been through all of that many times already. Lon Nol promised to bring good things but instead of having good things we had only bad things. Lon Nol promised that if the people helped him overthrow His Highness [Sihanouk] he would bring good things. But what he brought was nightmares. The Khmer Rouge promised that if they were helped to defeat Lon Nol they would bring good things. But only bad things befell the people. We made all efforts to topple Pol Pot and set up a regime that gave us the possibility of surviving and prospering, namely, the regime under which we are living now. Now the same old faces are making promises again. If you vote for them, they claim, they will bring good things to you. This is not sure yet. You should instead treasure what you already hold in your hands. At least you can be sure that these people will not run away. We will continue to stay here. As I said the other day, we will see to it that Pol Pot will not return. If you vote for the CPP we will never desert you.

Now, I would like to present our CPP candidates to you: General Sin Song, Mr. Cheam Yiep, Mr. Som Kanhnha, Mr. Ek Sam-ol, Mr. Chey Sophon, Mr. Nhoek Uthang, [words indistinct]. I ask you to support these people. They do not betray Hun Sen. They support Hun Sen. I leave them with you. [applause]

I do not need to tell you about Mr. Sin Song, Mr. Chea Yiep, Mr. Ek Sam-ol, and so on, for they are staying with you. Some other parties come in and claim to be this or that. They have never been with the people. Mr. Sin Song has always been here. What is important is that although I do not run in Prey Veng, if the people of Prey Veng vote for the logo with the flying goddess, Mr. Sin Song here as well as Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Heng Samrin will be elected. Provided you cast the ballots for the CPP, I will be elected. [words indistinct] if you vote for the goddess, we win. This is because all the representatives will be added to those in the National Assembly representing this party. For example, there are 11 seats here and if we win eight or nine—this is only a hypothesis—there are 18 seats in Kompong Cham, so many in Phnom Penh and how many we win, and so on and all of them will be added up in the National Assembly [words indistinct]. You can see the pictures underneath the sign of the goddess. These are Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen. If there are only two seats, then you would think that you will have to vote for only two of the three. This is not true. If you vote only for the CPP, all three will be elected. The question is only whether or not you will cast your ballots. All of you must go to vote.

Thank you. If you cast your ballots, we will surely win. I thank you in advance for your votes. I really thank you and the gods of the new year will surely help us. Yes? [aside to someone in the audience] To help you? I am lodging a protest against Ranariddh, Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge—no, we can ignore the Khmer Rouge; it is more important to deal with Ranariddh and Son Sann. [passage indistinct] if these people agreed, we would get aid from both the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. We would have obtained eight to nine metric tons of fertilizer for the peasants. Now, while we ask for the fertilizer, Ranariddh and Son Sann ask that no fertilizer should be sent in. This is what happens. And they claim to be loving the people. They are [words indistinct]. If you vote for the CPP and the CPP wins, these people will not be causing you trouble. If you want fertilizer, you will immediately get it. However, if I lose, you will not get it. Thank you for the big applause you just gave me. I thus ask all party members and party supporters to vote for the CPP under the flying goddess logo.

I am not going to go any further. I thank all venerable monks who chant the victory prayer for me and my wife as well as all [words indistinct] present here. I also thank all children and young people who are meeting me on this occasion. Once again I wish all of you the best of health and success on the occasion of the new year. [applause] To express the gratitude of the government and the CPP to Madame Sin Song for donating funds for the construction of a maternity center destined to meet the childbirth needs of the mothers here, which I inaugurated this morning, I confer a wreath on Madame Sin Song. Please, compatriots, join me in congratulating her. [applause]

Indonesia

Suharto Receives Miyazawa Message on G-7 Summit

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[Text] Jakarta, April 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto, on Thursday, received Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Koichiro Matsuura who delivered a letter from Japanese Prime Mininister Kiichi Miyazawa on a possibility for the head of state to meet with the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) at its summit in July in Tokyo.

After an hour meeting with President Suharto here Thursday at the State Palace, the Japanese vice foreign minister did not mention the content of the letter and the message from Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Head of the Executive Board of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] Nana Sutresna, who accompanied the head of the state on the occassion, said that the NAM chairman's bid to meet with the participants of the summit of seven industrialised countries is still being consulted.

"Japan is still helping us," he said, while explaining that Tokyo supports the NAM's wish to have the chance to meet with the G-7 leaders in Tokyo.

President Suharto as the chairman of NAM has conveyed the bid to meet with the G-7 leaders to France's President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

While at the ministerial level, Minister Ali Alatas conveyed the request to some G-7 foreign ministers.

G-7 groups the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Canada.

Turkey Supports Jakarta Request on G-7 Attendance

WA2204030093

[Editorial Report] The 15 March Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian on page 3 reports that Turkey's ambassador to Indonesia, Sevinc Dalyanoglu, has expressed support for Indonesia's request to meet with the Group of Seven (G-7) leaders during their July Tokyo summit meeting. The ambassador stressed the importance of Indonesia, as chairman of the 1O8-member Nonaligned Movement, attending the summit "to convey the views" of the nonaligned nations. "If necessary, Turkey will use its power as a NATO member to exert pressure on the G-7 countries (Japan, Canada, the U.S., France, Britain, Italy, and Germany) to accommodate Indonesia's desire," the ambassador stated.

Minister Proposes More UN Troops in Cambodia

BK2204145493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1040 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Rome, April 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia has suggested that the UN increase the strength of its peacekeepers in Cambodia in an effort to safeguard the implementation of the elections in civil war-torn country.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas made the proposal to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali before holding a tripartite meeting between them and Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Duroa Barroso to discuss the East Timor issue here on Wednesday.

"The UN secretary general will consider the Indonesian proposal," Alatas said.

According to the minister, the strength of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] is quite limited in terms of personnel and position. He said UNTAC is only equipped with old Russian-made helicopters and light weaponry.

In the face of risky situation in the run up to the general elections on May 23 and the formation of a new Cambodian government, an effort to reinforce the peacekeepers strength should be made, according to Alatas.

He said that Norodom Sihanouk is still the key figure in peace process in Cambodia after the Cambodian people decide their own choice, they need to form a national reconciliation, Alatas said.

Finance Minister: Jakarta Not To Devalue Currency

BK2204081493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The government will not devalue the rupiah but will continue to float the currency. Finance Minister Mar'ie Muhammad said that the rupiah depreciates on an average three to five percent annually under the managed float and this implies that there will be no devaluation. He added that the managed float is one of the important factors contributing to non-oil and non-gas exports. According to the minister, the rupiah's value should be geared to supporting non-oil and non-gas exports. However, a drastic fall in the rupiah's value should be avoided because it could affect the people's trust in the currency which in turn would discourage them from saving.

Philippines

Manila Takes Control of Long-Distance Phone Company

HK2204035193 Quezon City MALAYA in English 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ellen Cruz]

[Text] The government took control of Philippine Long Distance Telephone [PLDT] Co. by taking six of the 11 seats in the board of directors during the annual stockholders meeting yesterday.

Immediately after their election, the directors met and reelected Alfonso Yuchengco as chairman and reappointed Antonio Cojuangco as president.

Chairman Magtanggol Gunigundo of the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG], however, said Cojuangco would serve only in an interim capacity to avoid disruption in management and delivery of services to telephone subscribers.

"I will not conclude that Cojuangco is a nominal president just because we (government) have more seats in the board. I will just say that he is still the president for the interim. The management will not be disturbed so there will be no prejudice or damage to the investors and the giving of service to the customers," he said.

Cojuangco, who has been president since 1986, earlier said there was a move to oust him. He did not elaborate.

Gunigundo said Cojuangco, in a meeting Monday night during which the agreement to reorganize the board was reached, agreed he would stay in his post "at least for 1993."

Elected to the board on the strength of PCGG-sequestered shares were Gunigundo, former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, economist and writer Rodolfo Romero, investment banker Celso Samaniego and Development Bank of the Philippines official Gregorio Vigilar. Renato Valencia, administrator of the Social Security System [SSS], was elected on the strength of SSS investments.

The non-government directors are Cojuangco, Yuchengco, Enrique Cheng, Yuchengco's daughter Helen Dee and Antonio Meer.

A business group, meanwhile, expressed fears the government "takeover" of PLDT would have "immediate long-lasting negative effects on Philippine business."

"Is nationalization of industry creeping in? And what makes the government think it can run corporations better than private businessmen?" the Businessmen Against Government Intervention said.

It said the failure of the National Power Corp. to ease the power crisis alone shows why government should not intrude in private business.

They also cited the case of the Government Telephone System which was "mismanaged into oblivion in the 1950s."

On PLDT, the businessmen said government's stated reasons for taking over the PLDT—public interest and the dismantling of a monopoly—"is merely a cover-up." "Never in the annals of the business community has so much falsehood been spread to lay the groundwork for the firm's takeover," it said.

They urged the government to follow the example of successful countries like Japan, Singapore and Taiwan which kept a strictly hands-off policy toward private business.

But Gunigundo said governemnt control of the PLDT board does not mean the government has taken over the firm.

He said: "The management will be in the hands of professionals through the board of directors. The government hand is not direct in PLDT; the governance will only be through the board of directors."

Editorial Criticizes Takeover

HK2304033293 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Who Will Believe Him Now?]

[Text] When Fidel V. Ramos was sworn in as president of the Philippines, he said in his inaugural speech: "Deregulation and privatization shall set free our industries from the apron strings of the state."

And he further said: "We must make politics serve—not the family, the faction or the party—but the nation. And we must restructure the entire regime of regulation and control that rewards people who do not produce at the expense of those who do, a system that enables persons with political influence to extract wealth without effort from the economy."

If Mr Ramos should be re-reading these words he must be gagging on them.

In just two days, the government of this man who had pledged deregulation and privatization to "set free our industries from the apron strings of the state" has tightened its grip in the largest private enterprise in the country, San Miguel Corporation, and seized control of a similar industrial giant, the Philippine Long Distance Company [PLDT].

Through its predatory reptile, the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG], his administration increased its seats in the San Miguel board to 10 and grabbed control of PLDT by taking six of the 11 slots in its board. Many of his nominees to these sinecures have been ridiculed and reviled by business and media sectors for being non-entities with no visible qualifications for the position, except for the singular distinction of having helped in his political campaign. And yet this is the same man who promised to do away with "a system that enables persons with political influence to extract wealth without effort from the economy."

After San Miguel and PLDT, who's next? The administration's pythons have been lusting and salivating after

Philippine Air Lines, principally because they hate Lucio Tan's guts and successes. Why don't they go after Fortune Tobacco too? And there must be scores of other businesses out there, built up and nursed to robust profitability by hard working, creative entrepreneurs, that are ripe for the picking by the PCGG, on whatever grounds, for whatever reasons, by whatever means.

Thus will the prophet's words be fulfilled: "Deregulation and privatization shall set free our industries from the apron strings of the state."

Ironically, President Ramos exhorted an audience of government officials and workers, only recently, to ignore and reject the Filipino tradition of utang na loob [debt of gratitude] because, he said, it was the source of favoritism, unfairness and graft and corruption. But he has been seizing all these blue-ribbon companies so he can give away lucrative directorships and other sinecures to those who helped him in the campaign for the presidency. Is there more utang na loob than that? It was this that impelled him to nominate a baker and a barber to the Philippine National Bank board; was there a plumber or window-washer among the names he submitted to San Miguel or PLDT?

The PCGG nominees to these boards will, of course, hang on to their seats until hell freezes over. Not since blood-letting became one of the standard remedies of primitive medicine have leeches been encountered with the same tenaciousness and shamelessness as the PCGG's fiscal agents and other emissaries. It has been seven years since the PCGG's creation; has anyone of its legion of hangers-on ever given up a position or a perk voluntarily and graciously?

Amid all this President Ramos keeps repeating his pitch to foreign businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest in the Philippines. In fact this has been his prime justification for his foreign travels—to Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, Japan. He has gone to these countries to persuade their businessmen to invest their hard-earned capital in the Philippines. But these businessmen are not idiots; they read the papers and watch TV, and by now they know how the government has savaged two of the largest and most profitable enterprises in the country. They must be saying to themselves, "If this Ramos thinks I'm going in there with my money he must be out of his mind."

When Richard Nixon was running for president, one of the most damaging posters used against him was his picture, looking unkempt and unshaven, beside an automobile with this caption underneath: "Would you buy a second-hand car from this man?" With very few changes Mr Ramos can also be depicted delivering his inaugural speech with the caption below: "Can you believe another word this man says?"

At the very least, the lobbies of the San Miguel and PLDT buildings (and maybe the Board of Investment too) should prominently exhibit a plaque inscribed with these immortal words: "Deregulation and privatization shall set free our industries from the apron strings of the state."

NUC Chief Agrees to 3d Party in Talks With NDF

HK2204133593 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Apr 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] National Unification Commission [NUC] Chairperson Haydee Yorac agrees with the proposal of the National Democratic Front [NDF] to have a third party as observer in future exploratory talks between the government and the NDF.

Yorac is said to favor the United Nations as facilitator for the talks, as long as it will not influence the negotiations.

She added that the NUC is now studying the venue for the talks, although she believes the negotiations should be held in the Philippines.

Refuses Japan as Venue

HK2304064093 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] has closed its doors to proposals to hold exploratory peace talks in Japan and Switzerland. This was one of the nonnegotiable conditions set forth by the NUC for the continuation of the talks. The nonnegotiable condition clearly stated that exploratory talks between the NUC and the National Democratic Front should be held in the Southeast Asian region.

Other nonnegotiable conditions stressed that the NUC will not grant a status of belligerency to any armed group which participates in the peace process because there is no legal personality among them; and all topics of discussion must be within the democratic process, while all issues pertaining to territorial disputes in the case of the Moro National Liberation Front should be dealt with through a plebiscite. The complete list of nonnegotiable conditions is written in a report sent to Malacanang.

NDF Asks Ramos To Start Peace Talks 'Immediately'

HK2304023793 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has challenged President Fidel V. Ramos to immediately start the second round of exploratory peace talks between the government and the NDF in The Netherlands. Frank Chavez, NDF secretary general, said the president must give a formal response to the letter sent by NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni in relation to the resumption of peace talks. The NDF accused the government of having a double standard in its dealings with leftist rebels and added the government was just forced to abide by the NDF's proposals after it accepted Moro National Liberation Front demands for the peace negotiations.

MNLF Said To Propose Three Peace Talks Venues

HK2304023593 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Three places outside the country have been proposed as possible peace talks venues between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] on 30 June. According to MNLF sources, among the choices is Libya, which is a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO], Indonesia for successfully hosting recently held exploratory talks, and Saudi Arabia where MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari has long been based.

The MNLF and the ICO reportedly favor holding formal peace negotiations in a Muslim country. Misuari clarified that even though the Philippine Government stresses that the talks be held in the country, it must be done in a Muslim state because he is not in the position to return to the country.

Revenue Shortfall 'May Affect' IMF Bargaining Position

HK2204033893 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 22 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Meluchi A. Adriano]

[Text] The dismal performance for the first quarter of the year may affect the country's bargaining position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Answering queries from newsmen, Finance Secretary Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr indicated that the country's below-par revenue take during the first quarter may have clouded the country's credibility as it negotiates for a new Fund-managed economic program.

"Part of the negotiating process is to maintain an atmosphere of credibility in the whole exercise," Mr del Rosario said. "If we are unable to explain (the shortfall) completely, that does not help create an environment of total credibility."

Top-level policy discussions between the Philippines and the IMF began last Monday. The country is pushing for more flexible conditionalities under a growth-oriented Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

This stance may be undermined by the IMF's concern over Government's inability to meet its revenue targets, and keep within its programmed P25.6-billion [Philippine pesos] fiscal deficit for the year.

Earlier, a finance report revealed that collections from the country's two largest revenue-generating agencies, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BoC), were 15% below targetted amounts in the first two months of this year.

This shortfall was not only due to the delayed passage, or non-passage, of revenue measures brought before Congress. The end-February finance report showed that the BIR's two-month collection gap was eight times larger than the amount expected from new measures for the period.

A special session on the matter had been scheduled for yesterday. As of Tuesday night, however, Government negotiators were still scrambling for a credible explanation for the revenue shortfall, as reports from the BIR and BoC remained incomplete. This promoted the deferment of the discussion for today, instead.

"We need to have a more precise reading of the factors that are causing our revenue shortfalls," Mr Del Rosario said.

"To the extent that we have been unable to meet the targets that we have set for ourselves, then obviously there are questions on (what's going on). That why our explanations have to be good. That's why they have to be complete."

Simply put, Government has asked for the one-day reprieve to get its story straight.

"I don't want to sit down with (the IMF team) on a partial basis. I want to make sure our understanding is complete," Mr del Rosario said.

The EFF will be the last IMF-sponsored program the country will avail of.

It will replace the just-expired Standby Agreement, and is expected to bring in between $600 million and $800 million in fresh loans over its three-year life.

Malaysian Investors Support Infrastructure Projects

HK2004033093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Apr 93 p 6

[Report by Lorelei de Belen]

[Text] At least two infrastructure projects worth $160 million (about P4 billion [Philippine pesos]) were committed by Malaysian investors at the start of their two-day economic mission yesterday.

Officials of Renong Ltd, Malaysia's second biggest diversified firm, and their local counterparts signed two agreements in Malacanang on the $100-million highway connecting Manila to Cavite and the $60-million Manila Bay reclamation project.

Former Malaysian Finance Minister Dain Zainuddin, head of the delegation, said the 16-delegate investment mission was an offshoot of President Ramos' state visit to Kuala Lumpur early in the year.

He said more investments are expected between the group and its local counterparts once the mission ends its one-on-one discussions today.

Aside from the two agreements already in the bag, another Malaysian firm will also submit bids for the construction of the C-6 project, a third circumferential road around Metro Manila. Zainuddin said the project is estimated at $10 million.

A Renong official said that under the signed agreement with Exchange Capital, a local firm, the $100-million Manila-Cavite highway would be constructed on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis.

The idea is to build the 20-kilometer stretch of road, get returns on the investment through a tolling station and then turn over the infrastructure to the government.

The $60-million Manila Bay reclamation project would be a joint undertaking with Wenceslao & Associates. Under the agreement, the two firms will reclaim the 80-hectare bay along Roxas Boulevard which would be devoted for commercial and industrial use.

Of the 80 hectares, 40 hectares will be turned over to the government as part of its payment for the package.

Zainuddin said the two projects would start once the government gives it approval and would be completed in two-years' time.

Renong Ltd is a diversified firm involved in banking, insurance, construction, hotels, steel and telecommunications.

Malaysian investors are wrapping up other negotiations with the government and other private investors.

Zainuddin said the group has shown great interest in the privatization of government firms, particularly the National Steel Corp (NSC) and Philippine Airlines (PAL).

Members of the mission had talks with PAL Chairman Carlos Dominguez, who declined to give any details.

House Speaker Leaves for Moscow Conference

HK2204035893 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Ninoy Aquino International Airport—Speaker Jose De Venecia Jr, secretary-general of the Lakas NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats]-UMDP [expansion unknown] left yesterday afternoon for Moscow to attend a round-table conference in Moscow among leaders of the Christian Democrat International (DCI) and the World Muslim League (Rabitah).

He said the conference will be attended by DCI Secretary-General Andres Louis and World League Muslim officials led by Secretary- General Dr Abdullah Omar Nassef.

He added that the talks will also be attended by officials of the Russian Orthodox Church and co-sponsored by the party of Russian Christian Democrats and Muslim leaders in Moscow.

He said that the conference will draw up possible solutions to regional Muslim-Christian conflicts all over the world such as in Nagorno Karabakh, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Palestine, and Georgia, involving minority communities where both international organizations may potentially exercise moral suasion to resolve the conflicts.

The round-table conference was arrived at during the historic meeting between the two international groups in Paris in January hosted by the Philippines, which de Venecia represented in his capacity as Lakas-NUCD-UMDP secretary-general.

In a joint meeting, De Venecia said that the Paris meeting took note of the experience on Muslim and Christians coming together successfully under one roof in a common house in the Philippines within the framework of the LAKAS-NUCD-UMDP.

The Rabitah, or the World Muslim League, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is one of the most influential Muslim organizations in the World.

The Christian Democrats International based in Brussels, Belgium, is an organization of political parties in Europe, Latin America, and Asia, founded on the values of Christianity and on the principles of social market economy.

Thailand

Minister Discusses Cambodia at Security Meeting

BK2204140393 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri spoke to correspondents after a meeting held at the Foreign Ministry with the defense minister, interior minister, head of the National Security Council, and chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces. He said he invited the officials for a consultation and assessment of the situation in the region which has changed considerably in the international political front as well as other fronts.

The foreign minister said the situation causing concern is the current and future situation in Cambodia. Thus, the officials were invited for consultation on possible repercussions to Thailand's internal security. The topic of consultation was the UN-designated election in Cambodia. As far as Thailand is concerned, it has the duty to protect the border which could be affected by the situation in Cambodia. In any event, the meeting today was not for the purpose of planning an alert, but a to discuss the situation. If there were to be any impact on Thailand, it would be minimized and the border would be kept as safe as possible. Prasong said more of this kind of meeting will be held in order to exchange information and coordinate government policies.

The foreign minister said he had been informed by the Armed Forces, which are responsible for the border area, that martial law has already been declared in the area next to the Cambodian border. The Armed Forces and the local administration officials have been supervising the area and have encountered no problems. The size of personnel in the border area need not be increased.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of an influx of Cambodian refugees and agreed that the problem was not likely to occur. The reason for this is that fighting, if occurs, is likely to be small-scale and involve armed elements, not against the population. It would amount to a conflict of ideas among the Cambodian people. It was also felt that the fighting will not spread if there is no support from any particular group.

The foreign minister said that the agencies represented at the meeting did not worry about what incidents might happen, but were concerned about the political situation arising from the inability of the Cambodian factions to reconcile their differences. After explanations by the agencies concerned, the foreign minister said he reached the conclusion that the situation in Cambodia will not affect the Thai border. If there is to be any effect, there will be measures to limit its impact. Therefore, there is no need to worry about the situation along the Thai border facing Cambodia.

Locals Said Selling Supplies to Khmer Rouge

BK2304015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Si Sa Ket—The Khmer Rouge have begun stocking food supplies purchased from the Thai side here in a move which local analysts say could be part of the guerrilla faction's preparation for another outbreak of war in that country.

Local border sources said the supplies, mostly strategic goods and food, were purchased in Thailand before being smuggled into Cambodia on board 10-wheel trucks through a border pass near Phusing Subdistrict.

Some of the goods, such as salt, broilers, water jars as well as rice seedlings, were bought in Khukhan District by the guerrillas' representatives in this province before being secretly sent through the unmanned border pass.

The sources said some local Thai businessmen had also helped act as middlemen in securing strategic supplies in Thailand. Some of them sell farm produce brought across the border by the Khmer Rouge.

U.S. Businessmen Urge Lifting of Embargo on SRV

BK2304034793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 18

[By Suphaphon Kanwerayotin]

[Text] American businessmen in the region called on their government to immediately lift the embargo against Vietnam.

They also urged immediate actions to terminate all Treasury Department controls under the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917; relax Commerce Department export controls under the Export Administration Act of 1979 and withdraw US objections to Vietnam's access to funding from multilateral financial institutions.

Vietnam was a prime topic of discussions at the recent annual meeting in Taipei of the Asia Pacific Council of the American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC). The meeting ended just before US presidential envoy John Vessey visited Hanoi during Sunday and Monday in search of clarification for a document discovered recently in the Soviet Union Communist Party archives which alleged that Vietnam was holding more American prisoners than it officially acknowledged during the war.

The emergence of this document complicated the slow but positive move for the US to further relent the embargo and normalise ties with Vietnam. Full accounting of missing American servicemen is the last sticky element in the US-Vietnam relations.

The US embargo also blocks Vietnam's access to much-needed international credits, and prevents American companies from doing business in Vietnam.

Former president George Bush eased the embargo slightly in December last year, allowing American firms to open offices and sign contracts which can only be implemented upon full lifting of the embargo.

"This is like a father telling his son that he can marry this girl but cannot sleep with her," said a Vietnamese government official about Bush's announcement.

According to Raymond Eaton, chairman of Bangkok-based Export Development Trading Cooperation who attended APCAC meeting in Taipei, the issue of Vietnam was placed in a higher priority than matters such as intellectual property rights, most-favoured nation status to China, the Uruguay Round of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade, taxation.

APCAC strongly supports immediate removal of restrictions on US trade with and investment in Vietnam as "competitors" are taking advantage to consolidate footholds in key sectors where America is traditionally strong namely oil and gas, telecommunications, construction, tourism and finance.

"This represents billions of dollars in lost business opportunities and countless American jobs," said the APCAC position paper on Vietnam.

Members of APCAC attending the Taipei meeting are from across the region such as Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia the Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India.

Analysts and diplomats in Hanoi said the so-called Russian document issue appeared to set back any positive development towards the lifting of the embargo and normalisation.

American businessmen, meanwhile, argued that "a vested business interest is the most direct path to greater Vietnamese cooperation with American policy objectives. Constructive engagement will facilitate resolution of outstanding PoW-MiA issue."

Vietnam-American Trade and Investment Consulting Corp (VATICO), the first US consulting company licenced to open an office in Hanoi soon after Bush's announcement, will launch its official presence here on Saturday (April 24).

VATICO managing director James Rockwell is among those who believed that the Russian document considerably set back the lifting of the embargo and normalisation.

"We are not here to defend Vietnam but to defend America," said Rockwell from his office, currently the only establishment in Vietnam where the Stars and Stripes flies along side Gold Star on Red preparing for the Saturday opening party.

'Officials': U.S. May Extend GSP Program

BK2304033593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 26

[Text] The US Government is considering extending the duty-free Generalised System of Preferences [GSP] programme offered developing countries for another 12 or 18 months from the expiry of the current programme in July, according to Thai officials.

But the prospect of achieving an extension are now in question because of reluctance to take the initiative in two agencies assigned to find alternative sources for the $600 million per year lost through exemptions, a report from the Thai Commercial Counsellor's Office in Washington says.

At the same time, 150 large US companies and trade associations have formed a "Coalition for GSP Extension" to keep the pressure up on the American government to extend the programme. These companies benefit from the GSP programme because they are able to import materials, components and products duty free from the 140 eligible developing countries, the report says.

It names among the coalition's members: Apple Computer Co, AT&T Ford Motor Co, Honeywell Inc, Mattel Toys, Woolworth, and Xerox.

GSP programmes are offered by industrial countries to help Third World producers gain access to the richer markets. The US version of GSP allows duty-free entry for selected products from developing countries until the products attain a specified market share, provided certain conditions are met.

Regular import tariffs are restored if Washington considers the country is trading unfairly, for example by failing to protect intellectual property rights, or is abusing workers' or other human rights.

Minister Approves Appointment of IPR Director

BK2304032593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 93 p 26

[Text] Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon yesterday confirmed he had accepted the appointment of Suchai Chaowisit as acting director-general of the Intellectual Property Department.

The minister described Mr Suchai as knowledgeable and capable, with experience in international trade negotiations. Time will tell how well Mr Suchai performs as director general.

Mr Suchai replaces Phiphat Intharasap who was dismissed by Mr Uthai on Tuesday for making critical remarks about American companies' failure to cooperate in piracy prosecutions.

Mr Suchai said he accepted the appointment because he was under orders. He said he would have to renew his knowledge of negotiations with the United States and the various laws and conventions concerning intellectual property rights [IPR].

Previously deputy permanent secretary, Mr Suchai was one of the team of Bangkok-based negotiators representing Thailand in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, responsible for the talks on services. He has worked closely with Permanent Secretary Phatchara Itsrasena who is said to have fallen out of favour with the minister.

He was one of three candidates picked by Mr Phatchara and Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit.

Vietnam

Radio: Russian Document 'Clumsy Cooked-Up Story'

BK2204125293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In this program, we will examine the so-called Russian document relating to American prisoners of war in Vietnam that has been in the news recently.

This document was allegedly found early this year by the scholar of Harvard University in the Institute of Archives of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Moscow. The document was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 12 April and caused sensation among the American public. But what is the truth? Here is our radio editor's opinion:

The document was entitled: Report by Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, at a meeting of the party Central Committee Political Bureau on 15 September 1972.

First of all, Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang did not keep the rank of deputy chief of the General Staff in the period between 1965 and 1973. At that time, he was commander of the Fourth Military Zone, then commander and political commissar of the B-4 Battlefield, that was the Tri-Thien-Hue Battlefield. During such [word indistinct] war years as 1972, he was unable to and had no responsibility to review general issues such as the MIA issue. He has never written any document on this issue. Morever, there was no meetings of the Political Bureau on 15 September 1972.

The Russian document said that as many as 1,205 American prisoners were detained in Vietnam, many pilots and some astronauts. However, this figure is a far cry from the official figure released by the United States.

According to the U.S. State and Defense Departments, when the war ended, there were 1,172 American people still missing in Indochina whose destinity is unknown. Of this number, there were only 798 cases in Vietnam. Since then, Vietnam has handed over to the U.S. more than 500 sets of human remains and cooperated with the U.S. government in investigating 70 live sightings and 135 cases of suspicions.

After the signing of the Paris agreement in 1973, Vietnam has handed over to the U.S. all American prisoners captured in Vietnam. And up to now, there is no evidence of any American prisoners being detained or living in Vietnam.

Concerning the charge of detaining three American astronauts, the U.S. Defense Department and NASA have affirmed that there were no American astronauts captured in Vietnam.

The Russian document is also wrong to say that Vietnam divided the American prisoners into three categories—progressive, neutral, and reactionary.

The U.S. has acknowledged that Vietnam handed over prisoners in accordance with the time they were captured not with the classification as said by this document. This charge even insulted those American prisoners who were repatriated first.

The man who found this document is a Mr. Morris. He is considered by the American public not as an independent scholar but as a person who has many political prejudices and who has a great hatred against Vietnam. He was trying to undermine the normalization of the Vietnam-U.S. relations. This truth was confirmed by General John Vessey himself during his recent visit to Vietnam.

The general said: Further analysis of the Russian document was required and he believed in the valuable information provided by Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang. General Vessey considered this information was in conformity with reality.

Other prominent Americans shared this views with General John Vessey. Mr. H.B. Franklin, a professor at (Rutgers) University, said the Russian document was a clumsy cooked-up story. There were no events in the document that conforms to historical reality.

Vietnam always considers the MIA issue a humanitarian issue and not to be linked to any political issue. Vietnam has been actively settling this issue and demands that the U.S. make clear to the American people the truth of MIA issue, stop [word indistinct] of giving false news against Vietnam and doing harm to the interests of the peoples of Vietnam and the U.S.A.

Editorial Views Vessey Visit, Russian Document

BK2204133693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 22 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its international affairs section, NHAN DAN also runs an article by Duy Thinh about a clumsy cooked-up story based on a Russian document relating to U.S. prisoners-of-war in Vietnam allegedly found early this year by a scholar from Harvard University in the Institute of Archives of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Moscow. The document was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES on 12 April and caused a sensation among the American public.

However, it was also disclosed that the man who found this document—Mr. Morris—is not an independent scholar but a person who has many political prejudices, nurtures a great hatred against Vietnam, and frenziedly tries to undermine the normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations.

The truth is as clear as broad daylight. Speaking at a news conference in Hanoi on 19 April, General John Vessey himself asserted that after two days in Vietnam he became more skeptical about the authenticity of the Russian document and believed the valuable information provided by Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang because it was in conformity with reality.

Thus, it is crystal clear that the Russian document had been made public before Gen. John Vessey's trip and was aimed at undermining steps leading to the normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations.

The author stressed: Prompted by its traditional humanitarian policy, Vietnam considers the MIA issue a completely humanitarian issue not to be linked to any political issues. We have always showed our goodwill by cooperating with the U.S. Government in settling the MIA issue in a humanitarian spirit. It is necessary for the U.S. side to make the American people know the truth concerning the MIA issue.

Radio Quotes Vessey: Russian Document 'Mistaken'

BK2304124693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A seminar on Vietnamese economy was held in New York on Tuesday, using the theme Vietnam Today. It was sponsored by the American-Asian Association. Over 200 American businessmen and the Vietnamese delegation led by Phan Hien, president of the Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association and concurrently minister of justice, participated in the seminar.

Many participants expressed their elation at the latest developments of cooperation between the two countries through the recent visit to Hanoi by General John Vessey, particularly for the settlement of the missing-in-action issue.

And meanwhile, General Vessey has provided President Clinton with information that he said challenges the Russian document suggesting Vietnam might have kept more than 600 American prisoners of war.

General Vessey told reporters after meeting the president that the document and information he received in Vietnam last week tended to confirm what was closest to being the truth than the Russian document. General Vessey believed the Russian document contains mistaken information.

Radio Comments on Continuing Joint MIA Search

BK2304125093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnam and the United States have started another joint search for missing U.S. personnel. Here is our radio editor's opinion:

This is the 23d joint search between Vietnam and the United States for missing American personnel. The search is being conducted from 22-25 April, the first being concentrated in central Vietnamese provinces. It involves four investigation teams and three excavation teams.

Right at the beginning of the search, the United States was pleased with Vietnam's positive cooperation. Prior to it, the Vietnamese side provided to the United States with more important documents and information which were highly valued by Genral John Vessey, special emissary of U.S. President Bill Clinton. That was why right on the first day of the joint search, the U.S. hoped for good results.

After much misinformation about the MIA issue, in this search the U.S. believed in the wholehearted cooperation of Vietnam. This is a significant result. (Gary Flanagan), a member of the special team in Hanoi for searching for American MIA's, has said he thought Vietnam has tried its best to cooperate with his organization.

Spokesman: China Holding 13 SRV Cargo Ships

BK2204153693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] HANOI, April 22 (AFP)—Chinese security forces have seized 18 Vietnamese cargo ships returning from Hong Kong in the past two months and are still holding 13 of them, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

"It is worrying because up to now 13 ships are still held, including six without any news," the spokesman said. "We are currently having contacts with the Chinese side to resolve this matter."

The wave of seizures is the second by Chinese authorities, who allege that Vietnamese ships are involved in smuggling from Hong Kong to China, sometimes via northeastern Vietnam.

Hanoi protested strongly when more than 20 Vietnamese ships were seized and their cargos confiscated between July and September 1992.

Hanoi has toned down its public criticism of China since Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit here in December, however, and has been trying to resolve its numerous disputes with Beijing through quiet diplomacy.

Hong Kong authorities say at least 24 Vietnamese-registered ships have been seized so far this year by Chinese security men, including the 640-tonne Viet Tho 02 boarded Wednesday in Hong Kong territorial waters.

Party Secretary General Receives Cuban Delegation

BK2104150993 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi received here this afternoon Ms. Melba E. Hernandez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and advisor to the head of its Department of Foreign Relations and Ideology, now on a visit to Vietnam.

General Secretary Do Muoi expressed the deep sympathy of the Vietnamese people and party over the difficulties and trials the Cuban people was facing. He said he believed that the Cuban people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Fidel Castro, would overcome all trials in this period of revolution and steadily go forward toward socialism. He reiterated the Vietnamese Communist Party, government and people's constant solidarity with the revolutionary cause of the fraternal Cuban Communist Party, government and people.

Ms. Melba E. Hernandez expressed her joy at the important achievements recently recorded by the Vietnamese party and people, and her confidence that Vietnam's revolution under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam would achieve greater successes.

Deputy head of tne party's External Relations Commission Do Van Tai and Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Tania Maceira Delgado were present at the reception.

Ambassador to Cuba Presents Credentials

BK2204072593 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—New Vietnamese Ambassador to Cuba Le Duc Cang has presented his credentials to Cuban Vice President of the Council of State Juan Almeida Bosque.

Speaking at the presenting ceremony, vice president J. A. Bosque and Ambassador Le Duc Cang expressed satisfaction at the fine development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Cuba and Vietnam.

Also present on the occasion was Cuba Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

Pham The Duyet at Wreath Laying Ceremony for Lenin

BK2304061393 Hanoi VNA in English 0537 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—A delegation of the Vietnam Communist Party [CPV] Organisation, the People's Committee and the Fatherland Front Committee of Hanoi paid a floral tribute to V. Lenin at his monument here this morning on his 123rd birthday (April 22). The delegation was led by Pham The Duyet, Politburo member of the CPV Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi party committee. Also today, a delegation of the Vietnam-Russia Friendship Association laid a wreath at Lenin's monument.

Cambodian Vice Premier Concludes Visit

BK2204154393 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, left here yesterday ending his Vietnam visit from April 18. He was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh.

While here, Prince Chakkrapong and his entourage visited the Hoa Binh Hydro-Electric Power Plant.

Radio, Television Broadcasts Reach Grassroots

BK1504074193 Hanoi VNA in English 0537 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April—The Cultural and Information Service is undertaking plans to bring radio broadcasting to all parts of the country and television transmission to 60 percent of the population areas.

The service is providing technical equipment and guidance to help provincial and district broadcasting stations throughout the country to change their transmission to frequency modulation. It is also helping 15 local stations to set up studios and produce their own radio programmes.

By tha end of 1992, 60 percent of Vietnam's population had been able to listen to programmes aired by Radio Voice of Vietnam. Vietnam television viewers in the meantime accounted for 46 percent of the population. Most of these listeners and viewers, however, were living in low and mid-land areas.

Vietnam now has 177 TV relay-stations equipped with 283 tero's each with a capacity of from 10-100w, the mountainous provinces of Son La, Lai Chau, Yen Bai, Quang Ninh, Tuyen Quang and Daclac have built TV relay-stations in all of their districts.

Scientific, Technical Delegation Visits PRC

BK1704153193 Hanoi VNA in English 1354 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 17—A scientific and technical delegation of the Vietnamese Government led by Dang Huu, minister of science, technology and environment, visited China from April 5-12 as guest of the State Scientific and Technical Commission of China. While there the delegation attended the first session of the Vietnam-China Committee for Scientific and Technical Co-Operation.

On April 6, Minister Dong Huu held talks with Song Jian, state councillor and head of the State Scientific and Technical Commission of China. The two sides discussed a plan on scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

A signing ceremony of the first sessions's protocol was held at the Chinese government's guest house.

Minister Dang Huu and his party called on a number of research and production establishments in Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Nanning.

Australia

Evans Discusses Withdrawing Peacekeepers From KR Area

BK2204070093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The United Nations in Cambodia has confirmed there is no final decision on whether to move Australian troops out of the Khmer Rouge [KR]-held area of Pailin in the country's northwest. (Linda Maltram) reports Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans has moved to clear up perceptions he is at odds with the UN over the issue.

[Begin (Maltram) recording] Senator Evans told reporters in Canberra yesterday the move will take place after the 29th of this month, but the UN in Cambodia says there is no final decision yet. Clarifying the situation, Sen. Evans says his comments yesterday were correct as advised by the UN command in Cambodia through the Australian mission in Phnom Penh, but he says he was advised later that the decision to shift the troops has now been put on hold.

Sen. Evans also rejects suggestions his public comments on the matter could be putting Australian troops at greater risk and he says he has seen nothing to suggest there will be difficulties in negotiating any redeployment that may be decided on. [end recording]

Study Recommends Canberra Join U.S.-led NAFTA

BK2204114693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 22 Apr 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] As trade tensions between the United States, the European Community, and Japan increase, the Australian Government has released a report on the implications of the current world trading system falling apart. And the findings are good news for Australia, a country which depends on the relatively open trading system based around GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The study says an unsuccessful conclusion to the current GATT round could (?erupt) trade wars between rival blocs. And as Mark Tamhane reports, the study suggests the easiest bloc for Australia to join would be a grouping based around the United States.

[Begin recording] [Tamhane] The study, Regional Trade Agreements, Implications, and Options for Australia, was written by economics professor and former World Bank official, Richard Slate. He says Australia would have to consider joining a preferential trading bloc if the world trading system begins to unravel. Of the various possible arrangements, Professor Slate says the most feasible options are a bilateral agreement with Washington or membership of NAFTA, the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement, which groups the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

[Slate] I think that if the world trading system were to crumble and that really the barriers were being erected by trading blocs against each other and in those circumstances, we would possibly, for defensive reasons, be wise to seek to join it. That's the alternate thing at this stage.

[Tamhane] One of the main reasons of attempting to join NAFTA would be to avoid the wrath of the United States and its retaliatory measures against countries it considers unfair traders. But, the Slate report says a world of separate trade blocs would be harmful for Australia, no matter which bloc it joins. Membership of NAFTA would be likely to have damaging implications for Australia's trading relations in its main Asian markets, unless Japan and other East Asian nations were able to sign up as well. But, given the current trade tensions across the Pacific, it seems unlikely Washington and Tokyo would line up on the same side of the fence.

Professor Slate's findings are particularly interesting, given that Prime Minister Paul Keating has emphatically rejected joining NAFTA and pledged that Australia would never take part in a trade arrangement which discriminates against Japan, Australia's largest trading partner. Japan has also warned Australia, in no uncertain terms, that it will be forced to seriously consider a plan for an East Asia economic caucus, if Australia was to join NAFTA. The Malaysian inspired caucus specifically excludes Australia and so far has received only a neutral response from Japan. [end recording]